

Name	Date	Address	Comment
Ms. Deb Adams	9/5/2019	Houston	<p>Dear Governor Abbott:</p> <p>Each night, hundreds of thousands of Americans are homeless in the United States. They lay their heads down to rest in our public parks, on bus-stop benches, and in tent encampments. They sleep in their RVs and cars, and in weekly-rate motel rooms that are unsafe for adults and unfit for children. Every year, more than a million men, women, and children are homeless in the United States. This would be a moral outrage anywhere, but in the richest country in the history of the world, it is unconscionable.</p> <p>How is it possible that a crisis of this magnitude exists? It is unacceptable. The question for us is this: Will we sit back and continue to let it happen, or will we stand up together and demand better for our fellow Americans?</p> <p>I appeal to you, I urge you - Make ending homelessness a priority. In the vast array of societal issues you care about, please remember that people are literally dying on the streets every day because they do not have housing. Each day that we allow this to happen, we are failing our brothers and sisters. It is time to take real action toward restoring the lives and dignity of homeless people. In order to end homelessness, we need well-designed community systems that work together, and we must improve our homelessness prevention work. Long term solutions such as livable wages, affordable housing, and access to healthcare are all crucial elements in turning the tide on the homeless crisis.</p> <p>The time to act is now. Let's work together to make ending homelessness a priority today.</p> <p>Visit invisiblepeople.tv to hear raw, unedited and unfiltered stories from people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Deb Adams</p> <p>Houston, TX</p> <p>NAR per D. Keith. Expressed Opinion.</p>
Mr. Frank C Adkins	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>I support Governor Abbott stepping in to take care of the homeless problems that are plaguing the City of Austin. I am a registered Democrat, but unfortunately The City of Austin doesn't seem capable of resolving these issues. I am the Facilities Manager at a large church located on San Antonio Street in the West Campus area. Currently West Campus is not a safe place because of the homeless problems. We recently had someone attacked with a machete on our church property by a homeless person known on the streets as Chris. Daily I am picking up used syringes, cleaning human feces, and on Sunday mornings I have caught homeless people having sex right in front of a Sunday School classroom window. It does no good to call APD because they do nothing with these individuals. During the weekend of the UT/LSU football game a homeless man stripped down to his birthday suit and proceeded to take a shower from a garden hose located behind the UT Coop store @ 23rd street. APD was called and all the officer did was to make this individual put on his clothes. He should have been taken to jail. On October 2, 2019 at 10 am a group of five homeless people were smoking pot on 24th street in front of the congregational church, again APD was called. four patrol cars arrived, but they did nothing. These problems are getting worse daily. I have tried speaking with city counsel representatives, called 311 and tried to get in contact with Mayor Adler's office, but again nothing changes. How would you feel if you had your children attending UT and having to deal with these issues. THIS IS A CRISIS. We can't wait any longer for the City of Austin do something. We can't even wait for November 1st for the Governor to step in. WE NEED HELP NOW! I would be willing to meet with a representative from the Governor's office if that would help to expedite a solution. People smoking pot in public, and people being nude in the middle of the day is still illegal in the State of Texas. What are law abiding citizens supposed to do when our elected officials are not enforcing current laws. APD says that they must see the offender break the law before they can arrest. Seeing a grown man nude did not seem to make a difference with APD.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Frank Adkins</p> <p>10</p>

Mrs. April Aguren

10/7/2019 Austin

To My Honorable Governor Abbott,

Thank you for standing up to our horrible Mayor and City Council in Austin! They have failed to protect and serve their tax paying citizens. But yet allow trash and destruction and then in response, penalize their citizens by raising our taxes more to address it. But I AM TIRED....I AM TIRED of seeing tents and garbage everywhere in Austin, the city I once loved. I beg and plead that you also enforce to BAN PANHANDLING in AUSTIN and TEXAS too on November 1, 2019. Houston has done this and homelessness has decreased 60%.

I AM TIRED of the Mayor and Council calling them all "homeless". Please recognize there are two types of people on the streets in Austin: 1. Vagrants and 2. True Homeless. Majority of them are just felon vagrants on the streets (who were bused in from their states or cities because Austin allows them to do what they want) they continue to stay in Austin because the money they make by panhandling affords them to stay on the streets in Austin and do the drugs every night...Tax Free.

I AM TIRED of hearing of people being assaulted by them and children seeing them masturbate, urinate, and crap in the streets in public view (I witnessed this driving downtown last week).

I AM TIRED of not feeling safe with them next to my car when I'm at a light.

I AM TIRED of their abusive language and disregard for other humans. Most don't want help or choose not to stay in shelters because they can't do drugs there.

I AM TIRED of seeing animals being abused for them to use as bait or get money from people who feel sorry for their dogs. This all needs to stop! If they can't get money, they will move somewhere else where they can. I don't think any Texans want them to move to their cities either. Now if we reduce these vagrants and get back to the true homeless who are down on their luck, the homeless people could access the programs and safe shelters to get back on their feet again.

I AM TIRED of this Mayor running his mouth and insulting his citizens by calling us names and politicizing this issue. This is not a Red or Blue issue, this a human issue! And don't let him fool you, he does not need any more money, he has stolen all of his tax payers money and done nothing but waste it.

Enough is Enough Governor! Please don't allow this horrible Mayor and Council to continue to destroy our city. Please do what it takes to restore beauty and safety to our Texas capitol city it once was not long ago. Take Back Austin but please also Ban Panhandling too!

I Support you Governor! Go Get 'Em!

NAR per D. Keith. Expressed Opinion.

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The Honorable Susan J 10/7/2019 Austin
Albertson Ms.

Dear Governor Abbott,

Thank you for being our governor and caring about Texas. Please help us here in Austin. Mayor Adler is turning our once beautiful city into a dirty and unsafe place to live. We expect so much more out of Texas. Ever since he allowed transients to camp anywhere Austin is getting really bad. I'm from California and I've seen that state go down the toilet with transients, welfare and leniency on crime.

My daughter attends the Steve Hicks School of Social Work at The University of Texas. She lives in a first floor apartment near Ben White & Manchaca. Austin currently has almost 100 registered sex offenders listed as transient and living on the streets. Under bridges, Walmarts, etc. Because of Mayor Adler's camping ordinance register sex offenders may now sleep 100 feet from my daughters bedroom window and front door. There is nothing to stop a registered sex offender from walking 100 feet from his bed to peeking through my daughter's mini blinds while masturbating. This is unacceptable.

There are pictures and videos all over social media of transients pooping and peeing, masturbating and exposing themselves to children. They do drugs in public. They aggressively pan handle. The more leniency we give them the more aggressive they get. Every time I go visit family in California I practically get assaulted by a transient.

Everybody in Austin is talking about how trashy and unsafe it's getting. The Driskoll hotel is getting terrible reviews on Trip Adviser because of the transients passed out on the sidewalk.

I am a small business owner in Austin with locations on Manchaca and one on Parmer near Mopac. I pick up their trash every morning. I've picked up needles, alcohol bottles, drug kits, used feminine hygiene products, etc. One of them was peeing on my front porch for about a week. My office is across from a daycare. There is a mentally ill transient that stands on the sidewalk yelling and jerking his arms around as the children are getting dropped off and picked up. The transients have passed out inside and outside of my office.

I could go on and on about how bad this situation is. Oh and they're busing them to Austin from all over the country. California and Seattle pays for bus tickets for transients. They say the most popular destination is Texas.

Mayor keeps talking about "ending homeless" That will never happen. For every homeless we house several more will come here from the west coast as long as we're lenient on camping.

Please step in and help us Governor Abbott. Manchaca & Ben White & Pack Saddle Pass is turning into Austin Skid Row. No matter how much that area gets cleaned up they just trash it out again. There is so much property theft and assaults in Austin now. Pretty soon we'll have the diseases and problems that the real Skid Row in Los Angeles has.

Thank you for being our governor.

PLEASE rescind the homeless camping ordinance revisions that Mayor Adler and the Austin City Council voted into place in June and put into effect on July 1, 2019. We're all counting on you, Governor Abbott.

Kind Regards,
Judy Albright

City of Austin council passing all the ordinances that are going to cause increase in crime and filth in our city by allowing camping on city streets. Please intervene for the safety of our community, our police force and the homeless population. The council continues to destroy this town. Please help!

Governor Abbott, what the Austin city council has done with the new homeless rules would seem to be in violation with the anti-littering statutes for roads in the great state of Texas. This is pure and simple vagrancy left to run amok! And it has an impact on the image of Texas to tourists from around the world. The Capitol of Texas, Austin, is starting to look and smell like Los Angeles and San Francisco!! This is disgusting and shameful and you, Governor Abbott, have to look at it as well as the rest of us. What about the violations to the Clean Water Act due to the untreated human waste going into the local creeks and streams? Most of these homeless camps are located in these areas. What happened to, "DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS" Governor Abbott? This is a clear example of the tail wagging the dog!! The minority having a greater and less than desirable impact upon the MAJORITY! Today's society seems to want to exist by insane situations instead of good common sense! Bring some good common sense back, Governor Abbott. Do what you can do as a caring Governor of Texas to turn this now before it blossoms bigger. Also, Texas Game Wardens need body cams. I suggested that to Sen Campbell for the last session. My nephew patrols McClellan Co. and told me they don't wear them. Governor Abbott it seems to be open season on law enforcement these days and God forbid something happening to any Game Warden, but it might provide crucial needed evidence for prosecution. Most of the time these officers work alone and late at night with no help nor witness. Body cameras could be the big difference to bring justice to a family. Screw closure. That is just an overused media word because in these types of situations there is NEVER closure. That pain of loss never goes away! Body cams Gov. Thanks. You are doing a great job! Keep doing what you and Lt. Gov. Patrick are doing!

Ms. Cynthia Alvarez-Mack	10/7/2019	Governor Abbott, Thank you so much for addressing the homeless issue in Austin, our city council doesn't seem to care and you do!! Cynthia (Native Austinite)
Mr. David W Anderson	10/7/2019	Corpus Christi I would like to thank the Governor's office for addressing the homeless problem in Austin. I would like to draw his attention to a rapidly growing problem in my own city, Corpus Christi. Once dubbed the "Sparkling City by the Sea". No one says that anymore except in jest. Downtown has always had a homeless problem, but it has recently metastasized into my own community, Flour Bluff. We are a waterfront community surrounding NAS-CC and the many brushy areas and shorelines now contain massive homeless camps. Area church groups feed them, but there is no shelter nearby. The local police and city government give us platitudes, but little else. I have two small children and it is now unsafe for them to play outside. A bridge on my street has been taken over. Crime has soared. The park directly adjacent to the police station is overrun. We are in crisis. Neighborhood groups form and dissolve, form and dissolve with frustration at the police's apathy. Please Help, David Anderson 10
Mr. John G Anderson	9/12/2019	Austin Gov Abbott, Austin is falling apart under the leadership of this mayor and city council. Austin has always been liberal, I get it. This isn't liberalism, it is socialism. Obviously, the homelessness problem. I live downtown. It is simply disgusting. Dangerous and gross. I don't think I need to expand on this. You have to be aware of it. Socialist failing policies. Abortion assistance: I don't see how this can be legal. Adler is taking my taxes and using it to pay for babysitting, Ubers, etc for people seeking an abortion? You cannot do that. He is basically flipping you his middle finger. Mind boggling. Taxes: He raised the city taxes to the max of 8% even though he didn't need to because the state capped next year's at 3%. Again, flipping his middle finger at you. If you don't know what is going on, he is preparing Austin to become fully a socialist city and preparing to pass the baton to his wingman Greg Casar. You MUST step in. Your legacy will be forever tarnished if you allow our beautiful city of Austin, the capitol of the state you lead, to become a socialist cesspool in the image of Adler's favorites like SF, LA and Sea. \ Please Gov Abbott. We have no representation in this city and our state leaders must become engaged. You must cut the head off of this socialist snake. This is only the very beginning of the socialist plans. Can you not see this? I have implored my councilwoman, my state rep, my US Congressman, my Governor and my Senators. No one cares. Despondently yours, John G. Anderson
Ms. Jennifer Andrews	10/2/2019	Austin I just wanted to thank you for sending the letter to Austin City Council about the homeless issue. I have a business downtown and watching all the camps go up has been awful. Austin spent so much money on downtown, bringing in businesses, getting 2nd street district going-- and then this happened and it's really been terrible. I get a lot of tourists in my business and they are frightened to walk around and frequently ask about what is happening. I have had 2 of my employees assaulted in the middle of the day and the police have been told not to do anything about it. I am a life long democrat and feel like I have a lot of compassion for others but compassion cannot outweigh safety and common sense and what has happened in Austin is both those things. When we went to one of the meetings at City Council with a thousand others who went to voice the same opinion, their answer was 'businesses need to do more'. I pay over 25K a month in property taxes, I cannot do more. They are ignoring the majority of Austinites who are against this and I have no idea what the logic is. I am so grateful you stepped in and I will not forget it. I was born and raised in Austin and I know we are a liberal melting pot of people but we all want what is good for Texas and our capital city should not be filled with homeless camps and lawlessness that is so destructive to everything we have built. Thank you so much. NAR per M. Dahlmann. Expressed Opinion.
Mrs. Rachel Andrews P.E., CFM	10/2/2019	Austin Governor Abbott, since our Mayor is not listening to concerned Austinites regarding the homeless encampments, I'm glad you stepped in. The Councilmember's assistant told me they have gotten so many calls, and concerned citizens have blown up at the mayor during the meetings - it's like he's not listening to the concerns of so many. Meanwhile our Mayor is trying to "learn" from other Cities who have gotten it all wrong. Seattle, San Francisco, and LA with their feces and needles-lined streets.. Doh! I don't agree with everything our Governor stands for, but this is one issue I am so glad he's stepping in on! On my way to work today, driving under the 183 overpass, people sleeping there and trash, mattresses piling up and all along the highway...others and me calling Austin Council members only to get no action. Shelters are open - they just don't allow drugging or drinking. Thank you, Governor Abbott! NAR per M. Dahlmann. Expressed Opinion.

Mr. Jason Andruk	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>I just want to take a minute to thank Governor Abbott for stepping in on the homeless issue in Austin. While ai am not sure what the permanent solution is to homelessness in our community, state, and country, letting people pop up tents in public and leave trash and debris everywhere is not it. I am tired of trying to explain why the people are "camping" all over our great city. I am a diligent voter, and while I generally vote for Libertarian candidates, I promise to vote for Abbott in his next election if he can get this crisis under control.</p> <p>NAR per D. Keith. Expressed Opinion.</p>
Mr. Michael C Arendes	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for sending that letter to Mayor Adler. My entire family and everyone I know are all disgusted that Adler and the Council Members are ignoring the pleas of their constituents. We support helping the homeless, but that does not mean you allow them to sleep wherever they want and litter up the city and our creeks. If the City does not reverse course, please take action. Thank you!</p> <p>NAR per M. Dahlmann. Expressed Opinion.</p>
Ms. Mary V Attwell	6/26/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I was so pleased to read that you are planning to override the Austin City Council's vote to decriminalize public camping by homeless people. So many places in south Austin are already harboring homeless camps along Ben White Blvd. and nearby greenbelts. These encampments are not only a visual stain on a beautiful city but a major safety and health issue, too. The Austin City Council has also voted to establish a new homeless shelter at 1112 Ben White Blvd. which will house 100 residents at a cost of 8.6 - 9 million dollars in a property which has been appraised for 3.9 million dollars. Although, our Council Member, Ann Kitchen, promised her constituents in District 5 that the new shelter would not be located in a residential area, there are residences, apartments, an elementary school, and a preschool in the immediate vicinity. I don't know whether it is in within your purview to prevent the purchase of the Ben White shelter or influence the decisions of the city council regarding the shelter, but I thank you for doing whatever is within your power to save south Austin from this misguided agenda. Sincerely, Mary Attwell</p>
Mr. John M Augustine	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I want to thank you for your continued support of the citizens of Austin in regards to the homelessness ordinances. Our city council has failed us. I hope you can send assistance to protect the health and safety of my family and neighbors. Crime has risen in South Austin where I live and we have been accosted several times going through underpasses. My neighbors and I look forward to you stepping in and assisting us.</p> <p>Thank you, Concerned Austinite NAR per D. Keith. Expressed Opinion.</p>

Mrs. Ashley Austin	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I am writing to say THANK YOU to you and your office for your recent letter to Mayor Steve Adler regarding the homeless crisis in Austin. I know many Austin residents who are incredibly frustrated and upset at the lack of action by our local government, and for you to recognize it and promise to take the action they won't, means a lot! It is a serious health and safety issue, one that I see unfolding on a daily basis mere blocks from our home.</p> <p>My husband and I moved to Austin from New York 5 years ago. We immediately fell in love with the friendly people, the warm weather and the beautiful natural areas in and around Austin, and have enjoyed exploring the state of Texas on weekend camping and hiking trips. We felt welcomed and involved in the local community, where I have a small business. We invested much of our savings in a down payment on a home in South Austin, a dream we couldn't have afforded in New York City. It's our biggest investment and it's been very stressful to see the homeless problem mushrooming to an out-of-control level so close from our home that we love. Many of our neighbors feel the same. I feel sick to my stomach every day when I pass the large, and growing, homeless encampment near our home along Ben White and Manchaca road. Our family is coming for Thanksgiving this year, and while I usually love hosting, this year I feel embarrassed - I know they will be shocked by what's happening in the area.</p> <p>Just a few days ago, on Sunday morning, my husband and I encountered a nude homeless woman on the sidewalk while heading out for our weekend ritual of breakfast tacos. There are often clearly-inebriated homeless people hanging around the businesses along Manchaca and Ben White; businesses we, until recently, frequented. I'm now hesitant to shop at our local Target, Randall's and other businesses because of the growing homeless population in the area. My husband witnessed a homeless drug addict shooting up at the Randalls and now we just don't shop there. Across the street at the encampments, there is trash everywhere, and people just hanging around all day. It's horrible and a major health hazard! This area has become popular with the homeless and is attracting people other areas as word gets out about Austin's lax regulations.</p> <p>I understand that homeless people need to have somewhere to go, but many of them are taking full advantage of the lack of laws here in Austin, and it's hurting the city. It's making it less enjoyable to live in for many in this area, and harder for local businesses too. Once again, I appreciate you acknowledging the seriousness of this issue. Thank you for standing up for the residents of Austin!</p> <p>All my best, Ashley Austin NAR per D. Keith. Expressed Opinion. 10</p>
Mary C Aversa	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Your ultimatum to Mayor Adler announced today is preposterous. Placing a 30 day deadline to end a generations long, multifaceted, complex issue was absolutely foolish. The homeless were in Austin before changes were made to the camping ordinance; they were simply living in the woods, in the alleys, under the bridges, out of the public eye.</p> <p>As a Christian, I understand that I have a mandate... not a suggestion... but the command of the Almighty not to turn a blind eye to the poor, the mentally ill, the marginalized, the beggar, the addict.</p> <p>They are out of the shadows now, and yes, we all see the mess. Sending them back into the woods does not "solve the homeless problem in Austin," not in a month, not in a year, and not because a letter was smugly read to TV cameras.</p> <p>I also do not know what the solution is to homelessness in our city. I choose, through my church, to support Mobile Loaves and Fishes, Street Youth Ministry, and other NPOs that support underserved and homeless communities, rather than railing against those who sleep on our streets, whether seen or unseen.</p> <p>Austin appreciates your support in the form of threatened services to help meaningfully make a difference on the issue of homelessness in Austin.</p> <p>Sincerely, Your constituent, Mary Aversa</p>
Ms. Blanca Balboa	7/30/2019	Wimberley	<p>We were in Austin a couple of weeks back and we saw the homeless living under the freeways. Please do not let Austin become like Seattle, San Francisco, or Los Angeles, Please...</p> <p>I heard on a San Antonio radio station that Travis Park in S.A. already has homeless people living in tents.</p> <p>Please do not let our Texas be like most liberal states. Please.</p>

Mr. PETER BARBARITO	9/25/2019	AUSTIN	<p>We here in Austin have a LARGE homeless problem, as do many cities around the country. Can the Governor PLEASE get himself involved with the politics that are going on with Austin City Council Members and their recent decisions to allow homeless people to camp out ANYWHERE they want. Our city has been taken over with this problem and frankly its not fair that tax paying citizens have to be subjected to having this go on. I for one own several properties and it is starting to affect my ability to keep renters in my units. Its out of control and someone needs to STOP whats going on.</p> <p>PLEASE !!!!</p>
Mrs. Jo Ann A Bastanjoo	10/7/2019	Cedar Park	<p>Thank you for your time in advance</p> <p>Dear Governor Abbott:</p> <p>Thank you so much for your challenge to Mayor Adler regarding the homeless population. I don't think that tax paying citizens should have to see all the trash and mentally ill people on our streets. They need help, but not permission to live on the streets in ugly tents or lean-tos, leave urine and feces all over, leave drug syringes all over, panhandle, and drag poor dogs around on a rope to elicit donations. This problem has now extended out to Cedar Park. If the young population on UT's forty acres is a "no go" zone for camping, families and senior citizens want the same protection. I hope you will also give the Cedar Park mayor / city council the same challenge that you gave Adler.</p> <p>THANK YOU again, for addressing this problem (and not having to attend a "conference" in Hawaii) to get "ideas" on solutions!!!</p> <p>Jo Ann Bastanjoo</p>
Mr. Richard Batiste	7/30/2019	Austin	<p>Please see below for a copy of an email I sent to the Austin Mayor and City Council. I look forward to seeing solutions from the Governor's office as well as, hopefully, from the Austin City Council with reference to the homeless crisis in Austin. ----- Dear Mayor Adler and Austin City Council,</p> <p>You've heard my complaints about the current homeless and safety issues that have crept up upon us here in Austin. I'd like to put forward some suggestions for solution.</p> <p>I'm sure you are aware of the program in San Antonio where homeless people are allowed to live in a community that is nearby to resources that are necessary for helping them to get back onto their feet socially and financially. There are rules such as curfew, no smoking, no drinking alcohol and no drugs in the housing facilities that are provided. There are many who are homeless that want to become productive and integrate into the community and are able to do so with a little help. I understand that even with this excellent program in San Antonio there will be homeless individuals that do not want to abide by rules or make good use of the resources provided. However, it's a great program for those that do participate, helping them to move in the right direction.</p> <p>I encourage you to set up a program that fully addresses the various aspects of the homeless problem and its causes in Austin. There are those who through unfortunate circumstances are homeless and they truly want to integrate back into society. There are those who are mentally ill and require long term resources and care. And there are those who just don't want to follow rules at all. Each of these needs a solution that works for them and all the residents in Austin. I feel that you all should be making an effort to understand and find long lasting solutions to all aspects of the problem. Lacking caring, durable and permanent solutions we will have an ever increasing problem with homelessness.</p> <p>I feel that what is being done so far will not be long lasting. I fear that what is being planned will not fully address or solve these issues. I am having a difficult time understanding how housing for 100 in a South Austin facility helps the 2,000 homeless people in Austin. Where is the incentive for these people to use the resources or follow the rules and regulations? Wouldn't this only enable and encourage them to continue in a homeless lifestyle and encourage other homeless individuals to move to Austin since Austin provides for their needs with no effort on their part? With no set boundaries who among the nation's millions of homeless wouldn't want to be cared for here in Austin?</p> <p>In addition, allowing homeless individuals to sleep in any public place creates a safety issue for all residents of Austin. One issue is disease. It is a known fact that cholera and typhoid are problems in the Los Angeles homeless population. Other issues that exist include drugs, used needles, human waste, fires, etc. For example, there was a homeless individual that caused a fire in April 2011 that burned down a significant portion of a neighborhood near Oak Hill. A quick Internet search will reveal numerous major fires started in homeless encampments nationwide. Surely you remember the Interstate highway bridge collapse in Atlanta in 2017 caused by 3 homeless individuals. There are many, many more examples. And now that the Austin ordinance has been relaxed regarding where the homeless can camp, what keeps them from sleeping in the numerous green belt areas surrounding neighborhoods. There continues to be reports of fires in homeless camps. Homeless individuals use propane for cooking, what if a propane tank explodes due to carelessness or mental incapacity?</p>

Ms. Valerie Bauhofer	10/7/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott!</p> <p>I am very happy that you are paying attention to the issue of homelessness in Texas, and specifically in Austin. I hope that your interest will translate into the granting of state funds to enable localities to provide much-needed housing and services to Texans who need our -- and of course YOUR help. I trust you will make this issue a priority.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Valerie Bauhofer</p>
Mrs. Sarah Becker	9/5/2019	Pflugerville	<p>Please do not give any of Texas' funds to help with the homeless "crisis" in Austin.</p> <p>I full heartedly believe that mayor Adler and the city council are using the new homeless ordinance to get money from the government to pay for new shelters or improvements. The true homeless have the resources needed to better thier life and get back on thier feet. The ARCH, the Community First! Village, and the salvation army shelter for families. None of which is at capacity. What is out of control is the bums who have no desire to better themselves and are here for the money. They are getting aggressive with thier approach to asking for money. Please see the Facebook group "take back Austin" and the APD reports on aggressiveness panhandling.</p> <p>I do have a solution for you to consider. Make panhandeling illegal and the people who chose the bum lifestyle will find new cites to live off. The homeless who do actually want to better thier lives will still have ample opportunity and resources.</p> <p>Again, please do not give any funds to help the city of Austin. They created this mess to manipulate something on thier agenda. Please do not cater to thier demands.</p> <p>I myself have lived in Pflugerville for 12 years and cannot vote for the Austin local government. However, I have to deal with thier choices by neighboring them.</p> <p>For the past 5 years I have been calling the Travis county Sheriff office with growing concerns about people living under the bridge at IH35 and Grand Avenue Parkway who drink in public, stand in the u-turn begging for money, and trash the entire underpass. It WILL only get worse since the new ordinance and that underpass where they panhandle and sleep at night is only 3 blocks away from my neighborhood where I raise my 2 small children.</p>
Mr. Alton D Bell	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>The homeless situation has escalated to the point that the City of Austin can no longer cope with the situation. The city council has failed the citizens of Austin in more than this instance. A lot of us Austenite's feel we have made Austin a Mecca for this situation by the actions of the city council. I am not without compassion for these poor soles on the street, some do not know any other type of life.</p> <p>Thank you for taking action to help us solve the uncomfortable situation. Problems- situations like this are not easy to cope with, again thank you for stepping in.</p> <p>I have live in Austin since 1984, and cannot think of another place that I had rather live.</p>
Mrs. Donna Benson - Chan	10/7/2019	CEDAR PARK	<p>RE: COA Homeless Policy</p> <p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>My husband (Roger) and I have been residents of Central Texas since 2000. We moved here from Washington DC and love living in Texas. We recently moved from Travis to Williamson primarily because of the political climate created by the current Austin Mayor & Council, and most recently their homeless policies.</p> <p>In respect to the change in homeless policies that the City of Austin is now struggling with, we are also now experiencing homeless issues spilling over into Williamson County due to Austin now allowing the homeless to camp most anywhere. THANK YOU for intervening and encouraging action. We know this is a complex issue for the community at large. We are supportive and encouraged that you and the State of Texas could help the COA move more quickly towards a viable solution for residents and the business community.</p> <p>With appreciation for your intervention, Donna Benson-Chan</p>
Mr. Nikolaus D Bernardone	10/1/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor,</p> <p>First off I want to thank you for doing a great job governing Texas. I want to bring an issue to your attention. The issue of homelessness. I understand that certain circumstances happen to people; however, the amount of homeless individuals are crowding Austin. The recent events of the mayor allowing these individuals to camp anywhere is becoming unsafe. In addition, the south side of Austin (Riverside), is absolutely DISGUSTING. It smells like pee, trash is everywhere, and tents are scattered everywhere. To be honest I'd rather in San Antonio. Please advise of anyway I could help with this situation. If you could help as well it would be greatly appreciated.</p>

Ms. Terry L Berry	7/10/2019	Gilmer	<p>I am upset beyond belief about the tent cities in Texas that homeless people are living in. Please don't turn Texas into another California. You are a good Governor so stop this shit!!! Nip it nip it in the bud now before it gets out of hand and disease and rats another rodents start piling up. Stop it now. Please.</p>
Mr. Greg Bilbro	8/23/2019	Austin	<p>Austin City Council decision to rescind local prohibitions on sitting or sleeping in most public areas. With its easing of regulations regarding "public camping," the Austin City Council has gone too far in restricting the Austin Police Department's ability to protect the peace and preserve order. Homelessness is indeed a problem here, but the City Council deciding to throw up its hands and effectively invite more transients to move here because "we are cool people" is bad public policy, and is not going to end well. I assume the Governor is aware of both Portland, Oregon's and Los Angeles, California's similar programs which have been wildly popular with local businesses and homeowners.</p> <p>While I completely disagreed with the Governor regarding his attempt to end run around Austin's ordinances as regards removal of trees, this is a time where I do believe that the current Austin City Council has gone too far. I think there needs to be a Statewide law essentially controlling "public camping." Since the City Council's action, I have already witnessed numerous examples of "camps" being established on in public areas around what I would call the periphery of downtown. I feel pretty comfortable in saying that no property owner wants homeless camps being established in their front yards, and the Austin City Council is, at the end of the day, essentially engaging in a "taking" of private property when it refuses to enforce long established laws against panhandling & camping on public property and tells the homeless it is "OK" to sleep out in front of my house or business.</p> <p>I will add here that, in Austin, it is clear to any local that there are a number of the homeless which simply suffer from mental illness (whether it is the driver that placed them in their condition, or it is a result of their homeless status). The State, while it is currently contemplating how to deal with mentally unstable individuals who manage to acquire firearms, should also give some consideration to what might be done to get mentally ill homeless off of the streets of Texas cities. Leaving them to rot in the elements is clearly inhumane.</p> <p>I request that you consider, for the next legislative session, legislation which might establish a Statewide default regarding the basic level of enforcement for "public camping" in all municipalities in the State.</p> <p>Thank you, -Greg Bilbro</p>
Ms. Alice Blackman	7/2/2019	Georgetown	<p>I am very disturbed with Austin allowing homeless encampments under bridges and panhandling. I called 311 and 911 and told them of a homeless family by Research Blvd and Braker that were living under the bridge. They said they couldn't do anything. Again I'm seeing more and more encampments and the police won't do anything. It's disgusting to have people defecate in the street and living in tents and with mattresses.</p>
Ms. Leslie A Blinn Mr. Mark a bolen	7/26/2019 10/4/2019	Austin Seguin	<p>Austin will become like S.F. What can I do to stop the city from allowing homeless sites Snt ltr re opposing City of Austin's decision regarding the rights of the homeless. Mr Governor, I was in Austin two days ago on business. What a disgusting display of Texas honor Street homeless and interruptions everywhere I went downtown....DISGUSTING Nothing more than ARROGANT FILTH! As a 7th generation Texan that had family fight at the Alamo, fight in the Mexican American War and Texas Rangers that finally quelled the Comanches in the 1870's....after they had them beat in the 1840's, but Civil war dictated other things in between those dates. Disgusting.... DO SOMETHING ABOUT NOW!</p>

Ms. Colette Bonstead 7/19/2019 Leander

Hello Governor Abbott and Staff,

You won't find me lobbying at the capitol for change, protesting events or even writing my congressman, but for some reason I felt compelled to chime in on Austin's homelessness issue. I'm just a regular citizen. I have a college degree. I'm a mom of two kids, PTO President at my kids' school, working part-time for a non-profit here in town. I like to volunteer and I even considered volunteering for Caritas at one time, an organization who helps the homeless. I attended a training there.

Anyhow, to get to my point / idea. Whose problem is homeless? We know that businesses, possibly first-responders, police and the average law-abiding citizen, etc. see homelessness as a problem, but do the homeless individuals themselves see it as a problem? At the Caritas training I went to a few years ago, they said that many of the homeless (not necessarily like being homeless), but they don't want to transition out of being homeless. They have no bills living on the street (utilities, rent, etc.) and they live within their community on the street or under a bridge. The only responsibility they have is their own personal safety. No bills. No home to take care of and maintain. No dishes to do, etc. Why get off the streets? Remember that old adage ---- "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink". The homeless have to truly want to get off the streets. I'm reminded of the movie "Castaway" with Tom Hanks. If you've watched it, remember how hard it was for him to transition back to a normal life off the island?

I also learned in my Caritas training that many homeless "earn" up to \$100.00 / day by simply panhandling. That's not too bad! So why get a job? When we give a panhandler money, are we enabling them to panhandle and be homeless? Homelessness and panhandling does not just happen downtown, but you'll see them up in my old neighborhood at Metric and Parmer Lane. Heck, they sometimes hang out at Scofield Ridge Parkway and the Mopac Frontage Road begging for money. The two areas under the overpass at Howard Lane are riddled with tents and homeless people (trash and intense, terrible smells). It's a real eye sore. I've found needles multiple times at the Walgreens on Parmer Lane and Metric --- right next to Parmer Lane Elementary School! Homelessness and Panhandling is a city-wide problem.

I don't follow politics much, but I'm sure Austin City Council had met and inquired with many important groups regarding the homelessness issue before voting. Mental Health Centers, Addiction Centers, Poverty / Low-Income Help Centers, before casting their vote on the Homelessness Ordinance. My hope is that City Council spoke with and interviewed several members of the community who successfully transitioned out of homelessness as well. Can we not take this issue to an official ballot for Travis County?

Now for my idea. Since we can most likely thank Amazon as the reason for so many brick-and-mortar stores for shutting down. Don't get me wrong, I LOVE my Amazon Prime!!! So, anyways how about this? Why can't we transition some of those closed, empty buildings into housing for the homeless? I assume that most of these stores are already equipped with bathrooms and kitchen area. Could these buildings not be renovated to accommodate living areas for the homeless? The homeless could still be a part of their community. Perhaps they could get jobs within their building? Could the building be a "live, work, play?" Could they make license plates? Or if the building is near a bus stop, people could ride the bus to a new job. I think places like Goodwill and Thrift Stores hire people down on their luck, maybe housing could be near there. Maybe support groups for addiction could be started in Govenor Abbott:

Re: Homeless issue, Statesman Oct 3, 2019

Thank you for voicing your position on this issue and having an ACTUAL PLAN OF ACTION of sending state troopers to oversee this mess that Democrats seem to encourage eveywhere they squat and set up "govt". Enough of shoulderless twits and their sycophants (including the media) directing what the city will and will not do (to the detriment of the taxpayers). The commonsensical, tax paying citizens, are tired of putting up with the city council and their cronies' dictates! I find that some mental homeless (and there are many) have become daring and brazen in their (correct belief that police are not allowed to touch them!) violent and scary actions towards us in cars awaiting a green light!

Spend the "unlimited" funds that the democrats always seem to find for their pet projects and build mental hospitals for the mentally ill of which there are many. It was a grave and not coincidental act that they closed the mental hospitals many years ago and threw the inmates out onto the streets to take care of themselves - which they cannot do.

Build dorms where normal, unemployed, homeless vets and others can live while they are offered education in the trades, crafts, medical, computer and robotics. Why continually import people from shitholes (who don't integrate and are here only for the \$\$\$) to take jobs that Americans can and would do?

The "opioid overdose" is not always "accidental" --- what percentage is suicide? It's suicide when life appears HOPELESS! HOMELESSNESS has to be nipped in the bud NOW because it will not get better. And why should the MAJORITY taxpayers be continually tyrannized by the few intergalactic egos that always seem to run for office? At some point the herd will refuse to go to the abattoir.

Mrs. S BORGIALLI 10/3/2019 AUSTIN

Mrs. Amy Bostelman 7/18/2019 Leander

Dear Governor Abbott:

Each night, hundreds of thousands of Americans are homeless in the United States. They lay their heads down to rest in our public parks, on bus-stop benches, and in tent encampments. They sleep in their RVs and cars, and in weekly-rate motel rooms that are unsafe for adults and unfit for children. Every year, more than a million men, women, and children are homeless in the United States. This would be a moral outrage anywhere, but in the richest country in the history of the world, it is unconscionable.

How is it possible that a crisis of this magnitude exists? It is unacceptable. The question for us is this:

Will we sit back and continue to let it happen, or will we stand up together and demand better for our fellow Americans?

I appeal to you, I urge you - Make ending homelessness a priority. In the vast array of societal issues you care about, please remember that people are literally dying on the streets every day because they do not have housing. Each day that we allow this to happen, we are failing our brothers and sisters. It is time to take real action toward restoring the lives and dignity of homeless people. In order to end homelessness, we need well-designed community systems that work together, and we must improve our homelessness prevention work. Long term solutions such as livable wages, affordable housing, and access to healthcare are all crucial elements in turning the tide on the homeless crisis.

The time to act is now. Let's work together to make ending homelessness a priority today.

Visit visiblepeople.tv to hear raw, unedited and unfiltered stories from people experiencing homelessness.

Sincerely,

Amy Bostelman
Leander, TX

Mr. Stephen E Bost 9/13/2019 Austin

Thank you for your time to review my opinion. There is a lot of problems in Austin. We have a homeless epidemic, tax issues, and now the city has approved to spend money for abortions. Without even getting into the morals of this issue, financially alone it is wrong to force on the city's occupants. Please help to remove SB-22 from being an option for Austin. Abortion should not be funded by the state, city, or any other public entity. While I am against abortion for personal and religious reasons; I believe that we can all agree it shouldn't be up to a city council who gets to live. Again thank you for your time and I hope that you will fight for what is right.

Other Kelly Boyle 9/24/2019 Phoenix, AZ

In regards to the nations crisis of homelessness and the drug addiction involved as well as the mental health issues. See countries such as Norway and Finland that address drug addiction as an illness and physically take the individuals off the street for detox as a law and for the individuals health. Locked in a hospital and then transferred to a mandatory job training and helped to gain employment. REoffense of drug addiction and being on the streets is reduced to about 20% of those who go through the program and money spent on homelessness is far less than what we spend. Change the laws to allow the program to work, or do something that entices the drug addict to be in the program.

For mental health like schizophrenia, there are natural supplements that have been tested by our own government, like the amino acid sarcosine, which is proven in a double blind study to be effective. Why isn't it being told to all regular doctors. Side effects from the pharmaceuticals is so bad that I have been told from doctors that it takes up to 20 years off of the life of the patient and they hate the drug anyway and keep ending up on the streets. Why make life so miserable for them? Give them covered choices so that they can function without getting diabetes from using the pharmaceutical, which are costing thousands of dollars every month.

Mrs. Nancy M Bresnahan	9/18/2019	Longboat Key, FL	<p>Dear Governor Abbott, Good Morning Sir. I just wanted to share with you an experience my husband and I recently had when we visited the beautiful City of Austin. We were totally impressed with the City, your Capital building is fabulous, the City is so easy to get around and tour, we just loved our visit there. My husband and I are in our 70's and perhaps walk a little slower than the average tourist . We would occasionally stop and rest as we carried on our tour of Austin. Our concern was all the benches the City provided were taken up with people sleeping on them. And people lying on the sidewalk. On Saturday night after viewing the Bats emerge and on our way back from the bridge we did stop at a bench to rest on our walk back to our hotel. We had two men approach us preaching and telling us how bad we were - I will not tell you the language they used and the name they called us. One man actually flicked his ashes all over my husband and was hacking phlegm up with the intention of spitting on my husband; that man was distracted by something and that didn't happen thank goodness we were terrified and felt that we could not move - not knowing what was going to happen next. We understand the plight of the homeless and perhaps the mental anguish that some people have with their situation. Here in Sarasota and just about every big city in the country has the unfortunate plight of homelessness. Our presence in Austin was brief and while there we did notice that the presence of any police was not noticeable. In fact the only police we saw was a police car at our hotel with an ambulance one of the guest there was sick and brought to a hospital - that was the only time we saw any police. It would of been nice to see some security in the downtown area on Saturday night we would of gone to report the the behavior of these men that night. I'm sure there were police on 6th Street as that was a hopping place, perhaps that's where the Police are needed but we are hoping that you can encourage the Police Department to help with the problems that due appear on Congress Street as well. We will come back someday but will not feel comfortable walking at night. We also visited San Antonio and the Police presence was great there were even Police on bikes paroling the street day and night. Perhaps you could pass this along to your Chief of Police and ask him to up his game with protecting for your visitor the the Great City of Austin.</p> <p>Thank you. Nancy Bresnahan</p>
Mr. Warren C Brewster	7/24/2019	Round Rock	<p>Please HELP. Austin City Council is hurting businesses in Austin, allowing our sidewalks to become like LA with homeless tents. We have a shelter here that is supposed to help!</p> <p>Is there anything you can do as Governor to rein in these insane liberal policies in our capital city!</p> <p>https://cbsaustin.com/news/local/homeless-people-can-now-camp-on-austin-sidewalks</p> <p>All that we have built as business could collapse like California.</p> <p>Please help Chris</p>
Mrs. Catherine M Bridge	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for sending the Mayor and CC of Austin the letter regarding the homeless situation. This situation is ridiculous and needs to be handled.</p> <p>Your efforts are welcomed and appreciated.</p> <p>Regards, Catherine Bridge</p>

None James A Brittain 10/7/2019

Governor Greg Abbott,

Thank you for the many years of service for Texas. I am truly appreciative and am honored to call Texas my home. I recently was medically retired from the United States Air Force after serving for eighteen years; fifteen years overseas. I was uncertain where I would return to from overseas, but I knew that for my children to have a quality education and opportunity, I would need to live near our beloved capitol. Unfortunately, I have noticed an alarming amount of people camping in our city and setting up permanent shanty towns underneath overpasses. I am not blind to the plight of the homeless; however, no child should be exposed to those conditions. If we do not quickly act to remedy this injustice, an entire generation could be lost; a permanent underclass in our state. Our federal government spends over one trillion dollars per year addressing both the direct and indirect consequences of poverty. Children growing up underneath the poverty line are more likely to have undiagnosed medical illnesses, more likely to engage in the use of illicit substances, and more likely to be incarcerated as they age. Additionally, those growing up in poverty are significantly more likely to continue to be a charge of the state and contribute little to society. The great state of Texas and our Union cannot afford to ignore any longer the plight of poverty and homelessness.

A benchmark program named Haven of Hope in the city of San Antonio provides emergency food, shelter, clothing, counseling services and medical care for more than 1700 guests. This shelter not only provides basic needs, it addresses the root causes of poverty that perpetuate a permanent underclass. This program could be scaled to Austin if our elected officials had the political will to do so. Unfortunately, the municipal government is looking to cities on the west coast believing there is academic value in experiences. However, I insist this exploratory committee lacks the political will to make the difficult decisions to address the root causes of poverty. Therefore, I believe if our city is unable or unwilling to take action to correct this injustice, the state must intervene along with law enforcement and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. The times of maneuvering around needles, trash, and human waste must end; not only in Austin, but all of Texas. Otherwise, this travesty will likely turn into a public health emergency with illnesses long thought gone returning to our great capitol.

v/r

James A. Brittain

TSgt, United States Air Force, ret.
Son of the Republic of Texas

Lori D Brock

7/12/2019 Austin

Gov. Abbot,

I am writing in regards to the homeless problem that Austin has. It is just sick to see these camps of homeless people all over the city and to know that the Mayor has allowed laws to be "loosened" for them! Why should they have the laws "loosened" for them when they are stealing things right off of law abiding citizens porches, back yards and from stores. I live where I can see the drop off area for Goodwill and on numerous times I have called the 311 number to have officers go and do something about the homeless over there stealing, breaking and throwing Goodwills property everywhere. The police officers do not do a thing to them (when they finally show up). It has got to the point now that you even have citizens driving up in their cars and acting just as bad as the homeless people. I would like to know how a normal citizen goes and steals property from somewhere, they arrest them or charges filed but a homeless person can get away with and I promise you they will be right out there doing it again tomorrow. Why, what the homeless destroy and get into do they not have the same laws that everyone else has? I am very proud that you have made yourself involved with this because it seems our Mayor just wants to "keep Austin Weird" along with dirty and cluttered. Keep up the good work Gov. Abbot.

Sincerely
Lori

Mrs. Emily C Brown- Klein 10/3/2019 Austin

Thank you for taking note of the homeless problems in Austin and offering to step in if the City Council does not rescind public camping. In a few short months we've watched our beautiful city become a tent city with needles, feces, trash, etc under every overpass. The City Council made this decision with zero thought for public safety and sanitation, and to this point they have done nothing to clean up their mess.

There is a tent city less than 1 mile from my children's school, and mental illness and drug abuse are known problems in the homeless community. The city has done nothing to clean up the trash, needles, feces, urine on our public spaces. This is a problem the State of Texas cannot afford to ignore. We are beyond frustrated with the City Council and will much appreciate any help you can give our city. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Emily Klein

Ms. Mary Bryan	8/22/2019	Austin	<p>The camping ordinance needs to be reversed immediately. The tents and trash are overwhelming. There are reports the homeless in California want to move here because Austin is more accommodating. Are you trying to bankrupt Austin ?? This ordinance is not helping anyone it is hurting our city. Please think of the majority of Austin!!!! You were not voted in to take care of the majority of the city. You are failing!!!</p>
Mr. Peter Buck	9/11/2019	Austin	<p>As a resident of Austin I am saddened and dismayed to see the terrible impact that resending the homeless campaign ban has had on my hometown and our state's capital. Mayor Adler and the city council seem to have lost sight of what is best for the city and its residents. Austin is becoming a more dangerous place to live and an embarrassment to Texas. We were once proud to use the slogan "Don't mess with Texas" but that is exactly what our city representatives have done. Please step in and bring some sense back to Austin by reinstating the ban on homeless camping and panhandling.</p>
Mr. Jason M Budmon	7/3/2019	Pflugerville	<p>Please step in and do something about Austin's new homeless tent policy. This is a situation that needs to be headed off now before it gets out of control. We will find ourselves with tent cities everywhere like L.A., Portland, Seattle and San Francisco. Once the homeless begin flocking to Austin because of another sanctuary policy and we have been overrun and it is completely out of control, they are going to say "well we can't just kick them out now", and they will be stuck trying to solve a problem that they created. Please step in and stop the madness at Austin's city hall, you have done it before, and I feel that it needs to happen again. It will be an embarrassment to see what will happen to our beautiful Capital city.</p>
Mrs. Ann Burns	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>I would like to personally thank you, Governor Abbott, for sending your letter to Mayor Adler addressing the homeless problem that has escalated due to the ordinance that passed last May.</p> <p>Thank you for keeping the safety of the Austin citizens as a top priority. I pray the Austin City Council will come to the same conclusion. In deepest appreciation, Ann Burns</p>
Mrs. Elaine M Burrows	8/30/2019	Hutto	<p>PLEASE pass some kind of law making it illegal for homeless to set up camps in TX cities. If the state does not then the policies the mayor of Austin have set out (currently) will spill over into the "suburbs" and then TX will end up like California. I don't even go to visit my family in CA because I refuse to allow the money I would spend to assist the state of CALIFORNIA in encouraging the homeless & illegal immigrants to come to the state. CA used to be a beautiful state (at least in Northern/Northern CA). I grew up 3-4 hrs from the Oregon border in the middle of a national forest but because of the Democratic government has destroyed the entire state i no longer enjoy visiting CA. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW that to happen to TX.</p>
Mrs. Tammy A Busfield	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>In light of the recent laws allowing homeless camping, I'm writing to beg for assistance in reversing this law.</p> <p>I have grown up in this beautiful city and am witnessing the degradation of a once beautiful and affordable place to live.</p> <p>My top concern with homeless camping is the trash. Although it may seem trivial, it's ruining the beauty of our city. The mere amounts of trash I see on a daily drive between oak knoll and 183 towards Steck & mopac is devastating. I see trash bags left open at street corners where peddlers leave the remnants of their consumables. The Strasbourg spilling into the medians and being mowed over by TX Dot to make matters worse.</p> <p>The safety of our city is also an issue as many of the homeless I've encountered have yelled at me when I've offered food or drink and not cash. Many, I feel are unstable & need assistance of some sort. But they must be willing to take and use this help and I don't feel living in public roadsides and sidewalks is that help they need.</p> <p>I don't know the answer, I'm just so saddened to have begun hating the very city that is my soul.</p> <p>Thank you for what you do.</p>
Mr. John B Bute	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Austin Homeless Problem: I applaud the governor for his plans to take action to deal with the problem of vagrants in Austin. I HATE to see our capital becoming a filthy Third World outpost like LA, San Francisco, Washington, DC, etc. with vagrants sleeping, urinating, defecating, and copulating on sidewalks and under bridge; and beggars plaguing citizens on sidewalks all over town.</p> <p>Major street intersections have gauntlets of panhandlers in the moving lanes of traffic. This may be a violation of existing state law the governor could enforce.</p>

Mr. and Mrs. John and Judy Butler 8/21/2019 Austin

Governor Abbott,

We support you in your efforts to battle the City of Austin's camping policy. We live at 11506 Queens Way, several blocks from the intersection of Highway 183 and Spicewood Springs Road/McNeil Road intersection. My husband has provided the early morning lawncare for Jim's Restaurant at that intersection for many, many years and has witnessed the activity of the homeless population from that vantage point in the early morning hours just before dawn. He has been willing to provide service always with an element of danger and risk to his own health, as he delittered syringes, condoms, and sometimes fecal covered material on both public and private property. He has done his best to reach out to provide an encouraging word, and assistance to those in need. We served with Mission Possible's Church Under the Bridge for seven years, and became personally involved in many of the life stories of the homeless there, seeking to provide for the spiritual, physical and emotional needs. We now attend Mosaic Church where there is a strong outreach to help the homeless. There is now a growing camp of tents at that intersection. Just yesterday, large debris from the homeless camp was impeding traffic at the underpass. We have witnessed a man sitting in his chair, watching his pregnant wife panhandle on the corner. We have noticed that on one side of the underpass, there is daily accumulation of materials goods outside of tents, and on the other side of the underpass are a group of homeless who are laying on cardboard boxes and shopping carts with no tents. We are wondering what type of dynamic this will create within the homeless community, and how police will be able to handle the inevitable calls that will likely arise from the turf wars that are sure to develop.

We know that what others consider the compassionate thing to do is to allow the homeless to establish themselves in tent communities within public places. We know from the history of other cities in America, that this encourages more homelessness, more movement from other cities to our city by those who are homeless, and intensifies the health and safety of those who are homeless.

We support legislation that will encourage and support faith-based organizations to reach out to the homeless community, and yet not enable homeless living. We support legislation that will provide more mental health care facilities and outreach. We support legislation that will provide more affordable housing. As an educator, I support your past year's legislative measures to fund preschools and services to students who are both autistic and dyslexic. We support research that will mobilize those who do have compassion for the homeless to reach out and be a part of effective resources needed to combat homelessness.

This morning I read through the list of the City of Austin's long range plan to combat homelessness. I was surprised to read that one bullet stated, "We know what works," and yet the list of actions fosters homelessness.

We encourage you in your efforts and pledge our support to end the cities' discompassionate and uninformed policies on how to combat homelessness.

Thank you and God bless you, your family and your staff,

John and Judy Butler

Mr. Mike Byrne 10/3/2019 Austin

Governor Abbott,

Re: 100% support of your demand of Mayor Adler to fix the homelessness proliferation in Austin

I am a recently forced annexation citizen into the liberal politics and taxes of the city of Austin. My tax dollars now pay for the insane policies of Mayor Adler and his equally liberal council cohorts. I 100% support your firm demand for Austin Mayor and council to fix this crisis of homelessness which they have not only encouraged by thier actions, but continue to let it proliferate and begin to destroy this once beautiful city.

I urge you to keep full pressure on this renegade Mayor and city council. They absolutely ignore the will of the taxpayers and the recently 30,000 Austin citizens petition for rescinding the homeless ordinances recently enacted by these liberal nut jobs.

I ask that you keep the pressure up full steam on Austin Mayor and city council!

Ms. Sherry A Callahan 7/24/2019 Austin

Please have the governor do something about the homeless and ordinances that Mayor Adler has imposed without a vote by Austin citizens. The town is trash as are the burbs. Adler has hurt Austin. Please do something to revoke this allowing of homeless to trash the place. He didn't even come to the meeting last night.

Ms. Sherry A Callahan 8/28/2019 Austin

Please HELP. By Mayor Adler rescinding the panhandling and camping anywhere ordinance, he has thoroughly trashed and is ruining this city. The homeless need to be in shelters or mental health institutions, not destroying the beauty of this city and creating health hazards.

I live near Spicewood Springs and McNeil and the trash is 100 fold where he has allowed them to camp. Please DO SOMETHING to override the Mayor. He is not looking out for Austin's best interests!!!

Ms. Kathie L Campbell	7/12/2019	Murrysville, PA	<p>Dear Governor Abbott</p> <p>I know my opinion about the homeless situation in Austin doesn't matter anymore since I have moved from the beautiful city of Austin. I think it is a shame that the Mayor has passed a law that the homeless can camp wherever they want..I think he needs to see what is happening in Los Angeles, San Francisco, & Seattle.</p> <p>I am still a fan of yours and your values...please do not let them destroy the great city of Austin and the great state of Texas..</p> <p>Thanks for your time</p> <p>Sincerely Kathie Campbell</p>
Mr. Craig L Cannon	10/3/2019		<p>Dear Governor, I am so proud of you for telling Adler and Austin city council to take action about the homelessness in Austin. The city I love and grew up in deserves better.</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Lieutenant Craig Cannon, Austin Police Department(Ret) 32 years active</p>
Mr. Landon Capozzi	8/19/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Sir</p> <p>I am writing today to see what is the latest issue on you vetoing the Austin mayor and city council bill that allows homeless people to camp anywhere in downtown Austin, except in front of city hall where the mayor and his supporters work!! I hope that you will take serious action against this stupid bill. As our state capital is being overrun by more and more homeless people and all one has to do is to look at the story Fox News published today about the growing Homeless crisis in Los Angeles among other Liberal cites like Seattle, Portland and San Francisco. Please don't let Austin and Texas become California. I disagree with our Texas lawmakers opening up our state to big businesses that are relocating from California and New York to escape tax's while bringing their liberal work force with them. But that is a different matter. But we need to Keep Austin safe and clean now so I ask you please take action and veto this stupid bill or ask the Mayor and the city council to lead by example and ask them and their supporters to open their homes and take them in.</p> <p>Respectfully Landon Capozzi Trump 2020 Supporter.</p>
Mrs. Monica M Carson	10/2/2019	Bastrop	<p>I'm wanting to know if your office is working on the homeless issue in Austin. Austin has become so dangerous and trashy, it's embarrassing.</p> <p>There's a group on facebook called TAKE BACK AUSTIN that has lots of pictures and information on what they are seeing around the area and very good information for your office to review.</p>
Mrs. Frances Cass	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Homeless Camping Anywhere Issue.</p> <p>We are very upset that our city will turn into a disaster area with people camping anywhere and everywhere. How insane is this decision?</p> <p>We are putting up a sign for the homeless people from around the country to head over to Austin.</p> <p>We support Community First and Mobile Loaves and Fishes and believe the city should put their energy and money into something like this rather than creating laws that make no sense.</p> <p>Thank you for considering reversing this decision if it is even possible.</p> <p>Frances Cass</p>
Lynn Chaffin	10/4/2019	DALLAS	<p>Good evening, Governor.</p> <p>I just listened to an audio/video recording of your comments regarding Austin's homeless issues on NBC Channel 5 in Dallas. I have lived in downtown Dallas since 2011. I can assure you that Dallas has all of those problems and they are getting rapidly worse. Staff in my building have had to clean urine and feces from around our building and on our sidewalks. We find needles regularly. Neighbors have to step over "stuff" on the sidewalks and be aware of aggressive and sometime violent panhandlers. Of course this is all public health and public safety related.</p> <p>I am all for bringing the State's resources to bear ... but NOT JUST in Austin.</p> <p>I have long contended that the State has abdicated its responsibilities regarding the homeless, the addicted, and the mentally ill. Our jails and prisons have become our largest mental health / addiction institution. This is shameful. I hope this is about to change.</p> <p>Whatever the reason for your sudden acknowledgement and emphasis, I hope it is for all of Texas. Not just for Austin.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lynn Chaffin Dallas, Texas</p>

Mrs. Carissa Clark	7/12/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott- Thank you so much for all that you are doing to overturn the horrific homeless laws that were passed by City Council in Austin. As a proud Austin resident, I am mortified and devastated that the City Council would be in support of initiatives that have such damaging short and long term effects.</p> <p>I am originally from Seattle and over the past 20 years, I have watched the city go from what was once a beautiful and clean places to live, to a city that is not only dirty, overtaken by homeless people, but also unsafe. Every time I go back, it brings tears to my eyes to see the sides of the freeways and overpasses, covered in garbage and tents. People don't feel safe anymore and many families and business owners are moving out of the city.</p> <p>As a business owner myself, I chose to move to Austin to start my company, not only because Texas is an incredible place to own a small business, but because I felt safe and accepted in Austin. In the last 4 years, I have watched the city I love slowly get taken over by a homeless crisis. I cannot help to think that there are so many similarities to what I saw happen in Seattle many years ago and it breaks my heart.</p> <p>Thank you for fighting for our city and for doing everything you can to protect it from becoming a San Francisco or Seattle. It means a lot to me and so may others here.</p> <p>Sincerely, Carissa Clark</p>
Mr. George L Clark	8/21/2019	Austin	Please address our terrible ATX city council's rules allowing homeless latitude that tax- paying citizens dont possess! Please threaten , prod, and cajole to reverse these policies and sponsor RESPONSIBILITY by adults (city council and transients). Thx!
Mr. Jeffrey L Clark	10/2/2019	Buda	Is there anything being done about the out of control homeless people in Austin? People are getting raped when they walk in Austin. An employee was bitten by a homeless person while he was at work and is seriously injured. He is currently undergoing tests for HIV and numerous other diseases. One lady said she was peed on just yesterday on 3rd and Congress. Please save our city! This is out of control and mayor Adler is not doing anything to help this situation! He is only adding to the problem. Thank you very much, highly concerned citizen.
Ms. Laura A Clotiaux	7/8/2019	Austin	<p>Please revoke the Homeless Policy to increase it as a tent city that recently took affect June 2019 by the City of Austin Mayor Adler. As a single mom with her 10year old daughter in the car on the way to work downtown we have had 3 extemly dangerous occurrences from homeless people just by driving in the business area within the spam of just one week since this so called protection for the homeless has been in affect.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Homeless irrate man running against across oncoming traffic that had a green light at 6th/Lavaca screaming at everyone walking and throwing his jacket up in the air landing on a car windshield driving by having to swive. I had to slam on my brakes and swive not to hit him as did other vehicles. 2. Three homeless men fist fighting and kicking one man all over in 5pm traffic on Lamar/Barton Springs. 3. Lastly this morning a 50 yo women screaming at 8th/Lavaca 8:30am banging on our window trying to break it on my daughters side for money. My daughter started screaming and crying. I have called the cops and thanks to them they responded quickly but my daughter starts crying just the thought of being around these homeless irrate people. <p>My daughter and I have been involved in helping feed the homeless, making and distributing homeless care packages to them via Girlscouts and church for the past few years but now there is no way I can get her to volunteer to help them this away. I am having to instill in her to be strong and keep your distance from people living on the streets because of the eye witness volience she has come face to face with. These people scream at her inches away from her face even on the CapMet bus stops when she travels with her summer camp. These people have nothing to loose and play the victim after scaring children and now have been given permission to take over our public facilties and streets will only worsen as they are permitted by Mayor Adler to overcrowd our streets. I rather after 16years of putting in my tax money to the City of Austin to let it go to another city where we are protected. I know not all homeless people are drug addicts or pounding on windows but what am I suppose to do for our safety. I have worked downtown for 16yrs to provide and have a stable job but I do not feel safe in Austin as much as before the Mayor agreed to protect the homeless and not the children being attacked and forced to witness the insanity he allows and encourages to let them lay around our city streets drunk and strung out as you can see daily behind the 7-11 convience store on Lamar/10th st, and increasing on every street. Since they have the Mayors blessing to do so why would they have reason to change anything. We can not walk down Congress Avenue without being asked atleast 5 times with 5 blocks for money or cigarettes. Soon the public parks will not be a place we visit in fear of being assulted by the homeless as we have before in our vehicle. The city of Austin is not something I am proud to call home any longer.</p>

Ms. Alisha Colunga	7/15/2019	Houston	<p>Dear Governor Abbott:</p> <p>Please Help! I cannot do this alone.</p> <p>Each night, hundreds of thousands of Americans are homeless in the United States. They lay their heads down to rest in our public parks, on bus-stop benches, and in tent encampments. They sleep in their RVs and cars, and in weekly-rate motel rooms that are unsafe for adults and unfit for children. Every year, more than a million men, women, and children are homeless in the United States. This would be a moral outrage anywhere, but in the richest country in the history of the world, it is unconscionable.</p> <p>How is it possible that a crisis of this magnitude exists? It is unacceptable. The question for us is this: Will we sit back and continue to let it happen, or will we stand up together and demand better for our fellow Americans?</p> <p>I appeal to you, I urge you - Make ending homelessness a priority. In the vast array of societal issues you care about, please remember that people are literally dying on the streets every day because they do not have housing. Each day that we allow this to happen, we are failing our brothers and sisters. It is time to take real action toward restoring the lives and dignity of homeless people. In order to end homelessness, we need well-designed community systems that work together, and we must improve our homelessness prevention work. Long term solutions such as livable wages, affordable housing, and access to healthcare are all crucial elements in turning the tide on the homeless crisis.</p> <p>The time to act is now. Let's work together to make ending homelessness a priority today.</p> <p>Visit invisiblepeople.tv to hear raw, unedited and unfiltered stories from people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Alisha Colunga Houston, TX</p>
Mrs. Natalie Compton	9/11/2019	Cedar Park	<p>I've lived in Austin for the last 15 years and have always taken pride in how safe I feel going around town by myself and with my children. However, that has changed since the City Council amended the ordinances in June to allow the city's homeless population to sleep, camp, and generally live in public areas. Now we have homeless people sleeping in the entryways to the northwest Austin office building where I work. I see camps being built at various intersections of 183/Research Blvd where the homeless wade into traffic at stoplights to take money from motorists. It may sound positive to say the changes were meant to decriminalize non-threatening or non-hazardous behavior, but having to confront a homeless person sleeping in the entryway to enter my place of work or be approached in a parking lot while loading my children into the car to be asked for money does not make me feel safe. Not to mention the public health issues that arise with people urinating and defecating on public sidewalks (just take a look at the 3rd world disease issues San Francisco is fighting). Please take actions to clean up the city and to direct the homeless population into f</p> <p>Please override Austin's new homeless laws that really effect Austin public safety! The Austin "silly Council" has really gone too far this time. I don't want our beautiful city to attract more homeless people than we already have. That is what happened to the cities in the West coast. They have lenient laws and lots of problems. I was in San Francisco last summer and it's horrible, human feces on the streets, people shooting up in doorways -which we witnessed in broad daylight with our 2 children!! Drug dealers in the middle of the day -right in downtown San Francisco. I don't want this future for Austin!! Please override the insanity of the Austin city council and the mayor. I am a registered voter.</p>
Mrs. Renae Conrad	7/9/2019	Austin	
Mr. vincent contorno	10/3/2019	cedar park	<p>thank you for focusing steve adler's need to address homelessness . adler's desire to promote his liberal agenda is destroying the true character of austin and making a serious issue worse. this is not the texas i have known for 70+ years.</p>
Miss Taylor Cook	6/26/2019	Fort Worth	<p>Hi, I am on the board of the Texas Homeless Network which is the state appointed organization to manage the homeless services system for the majority of the state. I saw yesterday's tweet from the Governor's directed at Austin's recent camping ordinance change as a opportunity to put better homeless policy formation on the agenda in 2020. The stats coming out of HUD about homeless trends in Texas are alarming and communities around the state, not just in urban areas, are struggling to keep our neighbors from falling into homelessness. Could we discuss this as a priority area during the interim? I would love to assist with the formation of a state-wide workgroup to develop recommendations. I would really love to meet with policy staff to discuss this issue further. Thank you, Taylor Cook</p>

Mr. Erik Cornet 10/3/2019 Austin

Dear Governor,

Thank you for stepping in on the problem with the homeless population in downtown Austin. I am a long time business owner who maintains offices in the county building at 700 Lavaca. Additionally, I row in the early mornings at the Austin Rowing Club housed at the Waller Creek Boathouse. I have seen the rapid downward spiral of our city into a state of decay that for the life of me I cannot figure out the reason. Our mayor and city council seem to value non-tax paying, non-community contributing individuals over law abiding, tax paying, job creating, value adding citizens. Enough is enough. We have vagrancy laws to keep our city safe, clean, and a place where people want to live. I recently was assaulted at the Waller Creek Boathouse in the early morning by a homeless man who threatened to bash my head in with a rock he picked up. The rapid response by the Austin Police Department was most appreciated, and scared the individual off. However, the officer on the scene told me there is little they can do about the homeless invasion. The City Council has tide their hands.

Please, deploy our great State Troopers, deploy a couple of Texas Rangers. Please clean up our city, and enforce our laws before the city council turns Austin into Los Angeles or San Francisco.

Thank you.
Erik Cornet

Mr. John R Costa 7/8/2019 New Braunfels

Honorable Gregg Abbott

I wanted to let you know how disappointed I am with Austin decision reference homeless swatting. Have those individuals read and seen what happened to California cuties? They are hypocrites with their exempted areas. My understanding is that business will have to ensure areas in front of their business are clean. Do they not think it will have an adverse effect on business. What happens when private property is invaded. This is our state capitol what a shame when will poop maps be made. I moved here to retire but I guess I will have move because we will become another California. I could go on and on but I won't. I hope you can STOP this in Austin and possibly in other states. One last comment this goes against keep Texas clean

Mr. Terrence J Cottrell 6/25/2019 Austin

I am very opposed to the city of Austin relaxing laws on the homeless. Austin is going down drain. Please override COA. We do not want our beautiful city to turn out like the west coast cities, absolute hell. Thanks for any assistance

7/12/2019

Governor Abbott,

Greetings from what you will see is California. I am reaching out not as a current constituent but as a current active duty Air Force member who hopes to be a resident of Texas in the next two years. My wife, herself a 24 year veteran of the Air Force is from Dallas Texas and her family still resides in Rockwall/Heath area. In fact, her . With

plans to move our family to Texas in the next few years, specifically to the Austin area I have kept a close eye on the event unfolding in Texas as a whole and in the Austin area and am proud of the direction you and the leadership have taken Texas.

By contrast I am a California native born and raised, stationed back in the state. I have watched with heartbreak and dismay while the leaders of this state have destroyed first cities, then the state, all while ignoring the people who most bear the cost, working, middle class Californians who own businesses, own homes, pay taxes, send their children to school, and expect to be represented. Yet they are ignored. I grew up not far from and live not far from San Francisco, a once beautiful if slightly eclectic city (sound familiar?) that has been reduced to Third World conditions by this lack of leadership and direction of policies. I do not dare take my family to see the sights I loved as a child for fear of the other "sights" they will see.

I live in a town of Lincoln Ca. population approx 50k. When we moved here 8 years ago it was a safe, clean bedroom community. But thanks to the policies of this State the homeless and "low threat" criminals have moved into our area and now populate our streets, creeks, parks, corners, hang around our schools. My children cannot walk the streets unaccompanied because they will be exposed to those with either severe drug addiction, mental health challenges or criminal tendencies, and possibly all of the above. The police say they cannot do anything about the camping as the courts have deemed enforcement of overnight camping ordinances to be cruel and unusual punishment towards those who are homeless (sound familiar?) That they must provide shelter space but that those who need it will not take or or cannot because they have pets or drug addiction so therefore they can live where they want and do what they want. Meanwhile our crime rate has skyrocketed as they feed their drug addiction by breaking into cars, garages, homes. The city, the police, those who say they are here to serve us, whom we support through our taxpayer dollars say they cannot do anything because of the larger policies designed to represent not those of us who work hard to obey the law, not do drugs, pay taxes, but those who do the opposite and are now drawn here in droves do to the policies in effect to serve them.

Mr. Governor I have watched in horror as Austin, a beautiful if eclectic city has started down this path. The leaders of this city seem to want to make it California. Yet I can tell you from experience how that ends. I was encouraged to see you do not plan to let any Texas city take it upon themselves to abandon their people in the way that California has abandoned theirs. That is why Texas has continued to be a major destination for Californians like myself, veterans who simply want the opportunity to contribute to a strong economy while knowing their leadership represents them. Please sir consider my words and continue to fight for the business owners, the working families and the taxpayers of both Austin and Texas both current and future. Thank you for your time.

Sir- if you or your team choose to use any portion of this message please feel free, I just ask that as a member of the Armed Forces you keep my name or identifying information off of it. Thank you.

Mrs. Darlene K Crawley 8/21/2019 Austin

The homeless issue had gotten out of hand! There is bottles and trash stem all alongside the 183 access at Mcneil Rd due to homeless just tossing their trash on the ground and it is blowing everywhere. It's a disgrace to our neighborhood!!!

Please please make camping in our neighborhood under overpasses and in wooded areas illegal as it was before our City Council decided for all of us that they would show compassion for them. Where can we tax paying citizens get some of that compassion??

Mr. Rick Criswell 10/4/2019 Arlington

If you are going to make Austin clean up their act on homeless encampments, then why dont you do the same with Dallas? They've had the encampments for decades.

Mr. tom crockett 7/19/2019 lubbock

Governor Abbott, not sure what else to do. Texas needs to circle the wagons. We are not liked by certain fringe organizations and should separate ourselves from what is now considered mainstream. One example for sure. Imagine being a police officer and now having to put up with some belligerent homeless person because the elected representatives "who will never have to deal with this at the street level" have decided to be politically correct. I am all for getting people help but the percentage of these people do need real help way beyond the capacity of the men and women who patrol the streets. This is going to be a disaster for Austin. Do some research into what are the problems of that base of citizen. I have done an impromptu interview with a small number of homeless. The majority of these people admitted to me that alcohol was there downfall.

Come up with a plan. Just letting this proliferate downtown or anywhere is going to be detrimental to the area. Again, the patrolman and woman are not going to be able to deal with this effectively.

Mr. Bruce Crowell	7/2/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I moved to Austin from Portland Oregon on 2008. Since I left Portland, my friends tell me that my old city has become overrun with the homeless. I see it on the news. Camps are everywhere along with aggressive panhandling, trash, drug paraphernalia, and human excrement. All this can be found in the parks, open spaces and even the sidewalks in front of businesses. I never want to go back there to visit now.</p> <p>As I travel towards downtown Austin every weekday, I now see this becoming a reality in our capital. I see deplorable situations which I consider assaults to human dignity. "People live in tents along the underpasses. I have seen women filthy, scantily clad in rags. I have seen drunken dirty men urinating publicly in broad daylight. I see litter growing in my own neighborhood and panhandlers getting aggressive. I had someone poke me with their finger while asking for money the other day down at a shopping center by my house. I am now seeing people wandering around at all hours during the night, trespassing to steal bottles and cans from dumpsters, roaming around with stolen supermarket carriages, breaking in to and vandalizing vehicles siphoning gas for generators, destroying the sense of community by making people think that anyone saying hello to them is going to get asked for money.</p> <p>Yes, the wife and I are home owners here in Austin. We take pride in living in this city. We pay an exorbitant amount of property tax and expect more than this from this city, this state! That pride is waning. We are now thinking about putting our house up on the market, moving away to some place that better manages conditions like this.</p> <p>Is there anything you can do to stop Austin from becoming the next Portland, Seattle, or San Francisco? Shouldn't Austin be the model for how to do it right? What about the other cities in the state?</p> <p>Governor Abbott, our state needs to help find solutions to the mental illness and drug use that keep fueling this problem, including targeted funding, and we need your leadership to do this. Simply ordering Austin to re-instate futile ordinances that don't address these problems might please voters in the short term, but they won't actually help the homeless, and they won't get them out of view. Please act now before it is too much too late.</p> <p>Sincerely, Bruce I Crowell Austin, Texas</p>
Mrs. Jodi A Cummins	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I wrote to you a couple of weeks ago about the homeless problem in Austin. Please come and visit Ben White Blvd and Manchaca Rd as just one example of the problem. Send someone to see it if you can't come. As I stated earlier, my husband and I downsized and moved closer to downtown ATX. We live south, in what was considered a desirable area. We spent more for a 2000 sq ft home than we sold our lovely 3200 sq ft home for. It was the location that drew us. We could walk to restaurants, to Target, to coffee shops. We can no longer do that since Austin passed new rules allowing the homeless to camp. The area I'm talking about is a stone's throw away from me. It smells like excrement and urine and is unsafe to walk past. There are new markings on the sidewalk to hint that pedestrians can walk here so don't camp on them. These are ignored, and no one would want to walk near them anyway. Please do something. This is wrong. There is a couch, mattress and tents and lots of garbage at this location.</p> <p>My husband and I took an overnight trip to Dallas, and we walked a fair amount. All of a sudden we realized the difference. We were so accustomed to the new, dumpy Austin we were expecting it in Dallas also. Not so. Please do something. We need your help!</p> <p>Thank you, -Jodi Cummins</p>
Mrs. Mo Dagher	10/7/2019	Cedar Park	<p>Thank you for the letter you sent to the mayor regarding the homeless situation. It is getting unsafe, unhealthy and just plain ridiculous. So thank you for stepping in.</p>
Ms. April F Day	7/3/2019	Nederland	<p>To the Most Awesome Governor of the Most Awesome State,</p> <p>First I would like to thank you for serving the State of Texas. As you can tell, I am very proud of my State and its heritage. But our booming business and affordable housing are bringing in the crazies & Socialist by the droves. They are threatening the way of life around the state.</p> <p>In particular, the homeless being allowed to camp on city streets. It is all about their rights. What about an ordinary citizen's right to be able to walk down the street without having to walk around the people sleeping or laying around. And you know that the homeless will be panhandling. It is bad here in Port Arthur, I can only imagine how bad it will become there. Sadly this really makes me not want to visit the capital.</p> <p>I also feel that it gives no incentive for these people to get a job and get housing. I read that you said that the State can override local ordinances. Let me tell you, That is the only thing that allows me to sleep. Knowing that you can check the crazy ideas that some people come up with.</p> <p>Thank you, April Day</p>

Mr. Frank De Groot	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>RE: Gov. Abbott's deadline for Austin to respond to the current homeless situation by Nov. 1. The Austin school district is currently trying to make their decision(s) as to which AISD schools to close. The State may be able to make use of these closed facilities when the school board makes their decision. These are, I believe, elementary schools and will lack bathing facilities; portable showers can be obtained to meet that need. Residents in the school vicinities will oppose the homeless in their areas, but this situation can be addressed with studies including security and transportation. I have done extensive group bicycle trips in the US, Canada and Australia, using school facilities, usually gymnasiums/music rooms, etc for overnight and cafeterias for meals. Feel free to contact me if you wish. Sincerely, Frank De Groot</p>
Regis DeArza	9/16/2019		<p>Honorable Governor Abbott:</p> <p>The reason I am contacting you is we, my wife and I, have absolutely no confidence in the Austin Mayor or City Council. Please do something about the terrible new camping ordinance in Austin, if it is within your powers. My wife (born and raised in Austin) and I live in Travis County but have an Austin address. My wife has lived here Austin/Travis Co. her entire life and I have lived here Austin/Travis Co. well over forty years. Of all the dumb ideas, this camping ordinance is truly the worst. I am a retired Texas Department of Public Safety Officer, like most i started my career assigned to the Texas Highway Patrol in 1968. To think in those days we used to write citations to people for littering if they threw things like empty cigarette packages out of the car window. It is so shameful to see the trash on the streets and highways of Texas these days, what happened to "Don't mess with Texas"? To see what is happening to Austin the Capitol of Texas is extremely heart breaking.</p> <p>Respectfully, Regis DeArza</p>
Mrs. Susan Deininger	7/15/2019	Kerrville	<p>Are you asleep? Do you not see how the immigration problem is linked to our homeless? And now you are allowing Austin to legalize sleeping on the streets! I come from California. Thousands are dying of epidemics, starving, drug overdoses and you don't say, "Not here!"</p> <p>Those rhinos and democrats should not be allowed to open their mouths about immigrant treatment while we have thousands, close to two hundred thousand of our citizens homeless, without hope, dying! San Diego Unified SD did a survey: 23,000 of its students said they were homeless!</p> <p>Do not let this start here in Texas. You will have lost! Insist that Austin do something about its homeless and not fill its resources-missions/shelters/etc with immigrants. Cruz, Roy, Murr, Buckingham ought to be screaming with you and introducing legislation to close our borders until we have absorbed what we have, and know how many are already slaves. CA is a slave state already. Look up the FBI stats on slaves in San Diego, San Francisco, LA. Gov Abbott, We are a Christian country with a God who is there to support us and show us answers. No answers are coming and the LEFt just wants chaos and confusion so that they can take control.</p> <p>It is interesting-if you know your history-that those stupid people who allowed themselves to be fooled into thinking that if they supported a left regime, Cuba, Germany, Venezuela, wherever, that when the leftists were in control, they would kill them just as readily if they got out of line as they did hoi poloi to get into power. There ain't no fence high enough to protect against sociopaths and psychopaths. They are killing newborn babies. Their souls are dead.</p> <p>Susan Deininger</p>
Dr. Albert Diaz MD	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for intervening in Austin! My wife and I moved to Austin from CT about 1a year ago. We've seen the homelessness problem get significantly worse in a remarkably short period of time. While the Mayor's intentions may be good, he cannot seem to take action. He seems satisfied by the fact that the problem is worse elsewhere. Actually, based on the size and layout of the city, it's as bad here as anywhere in the US.</p> <p>Our City Council does not respect the right of the citizens of Austin to safe and clean streets.</p> <p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Please consider a special legislative session to override the policy that Austin has adopted against the will of the general population. Save our City before it's too late.</p> <p>Sincerely, Victoria Dodd</p>
Mrs. Ann J Dolce	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you, Gov. Abbott, for your letter to the Austin mayor and city council urging them to address the increasing homeless situation in Austin and the increasing health hazards it brings. I look forward to following the effect of your letter.</p> <p>Ann Dolce</p>

Mr. David Dormady	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Gov. Abbott,</p> <p>Thank you so much for intervening in the Austin homelessness crisis. I like Mayor Adler personally but he has clearly gone astray on this critical issue. It is a difficult problem which is beyond difficult to solve. This said, destroying the fabric of a great city is not the answer. I disagree with much of the the Republican agenda. This has caused me to take a closer look . And thank you for lowering the franchise tax.</p> <p>Sincerely, David Dormady Governor,</p>
Mrs. Donna Draper	7/10/2019	Abilene	<p>What can your office do to get ahead of or override the misguided and idiotic policy of the mayor and city council to allow mostly unfettered homeless camps to pop up on sidewalks, parks, bridges and highways etc. Austin's homeless camps under bridges was already becoming noticeably worse..now it will go into hyper drive around the city. My mom and other family still live in Austin. I grew up in Austin. This is a terrible policy.</p> <p>This policy is not compassionate to anyone. It ties the hands of police. It allows the homeless to live in ever larger communities of filth, disease, crime, open drug use; and exposes not only them but other citizens and families to unsafe contact with the mentally ill, criminal minded, open drug addiction and contagious diseases.</p> <p>If the issue is not managed effectively Austin WILL turn into a Skid Row, a San Francisco or a Seattle. If the homeless truly are incapacitated and cannot care for themselves shelter should be provided. The ones choosing this lifestyle over help for drug addiction or mental illness should not be allowed to openly camp throughout the city and under bridges. Help for the mentally ill and drug addicted wishing to change needs to be accessible and affordable. Job training to get people off the streets needs to be encouraged if they are capable and more affordable housing needs to be available. Surely there is a way for non profits, charities, churches and the government to work together cooperatively to improve if not solve the problems facing cities and the homeless these days. It would be nice to see Austin develop a model that could be successfully implemented in communities across the country to improve life for the homeless as well everyone in these communities.</p> <p>Thank you, Donna Draper</p>
Ms. Pat Dukett	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Re: Austin's new Homless Camping Ordinance:</p> <p>I'm sure the Mayor, Austin City Council, along with a few supporting local residents felt this new law allowing homeless to camp in public was an act of compassion. I commend anyone for trying to exercise compassion. But compassion must be administered with logic and reason. I say this because this type of experiment with the homeless as an act of compassion has proven to be disastrous. Such a disaster has been witnessed by the residents in LA, San Francisco, Portland Oregon, and Seattle Washington. This idea implemented in these other cities has only increased and encouraged homelessness, drug addictions, criminal activity, sanitation, and scores of health concerns.</p> <p>One thing is for sure, Sacrificing Law, Orderliness, and Public Decency is never a good idea! Implementing laws/policies that encourage, incentivize, and give place to harmful behavior is never a good idea!</p> <p>There are so many homeless camps (trash, urination in plane sight, drunkenness, belligerence, scary behavior) on the roadways to my house that I am embarrassed to have guests come over - to my \$400,000 home for which I pay ALOT of property taxes. I am sure you would feel the same way if multiple unsightly homeless camps were just around the corner from your home.</p> <p>What can you do, Governor, to get the new Homeless Ordinance reversed?</p> <p>HOMELESSNESS IN AUSTIN: THANK YOU FOR TAKING ACTION!</p> <p>Thanks for beginning to address this issue. Our city's lack of leadership is having dire consequences. Needles, feces, litter is everywhere now in Austin. Peace officers need a warrant to enter a homeless camp. Imagine having a child navigate that landscape when walking to school. We are being held hostage by our city leadership.</p> <p>Please take whatever action necessary to help. Austin is a special place, but it is completely out of control. As you know, we are spending \$62.7MM to address the homeless issue in our current budget. This is lunacy.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Mr. Clayton H Duncan	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you so much governor for addressing the homeless problem in Austin. It's obvious that the liberal city commission is not equipped to deal with it. Thank you so much!</p>
Mr. Warren W Dunkin	10/3/2019	Cedar Park	

Mr. Elliott N Dunlap	8/9/2019	Round Rock	<p>Dear Honorable Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I know you already do this, but I'm asking you to please continue to stand up against the Austin City Council and their hair-brained ideas regarding the homeless issue and gun control, among other things. I run a business in Round Rock and I would hate to see the results of their policies spread up here, as many ridiculous left-wing ideas already have. Let's keep Texas, Texas, and not start taking cues from California!!</p> <p>Sincerely, Elliott Dunlap</p>
Mr. James R Durbin	8/23/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor:</p> <p>With regard to the homeless population in Austin and other cities, we need to find a way to get them off of the streets and public areas, while still protecting them from harm.</p> <p>One solution could be to arrange a number of used empty shipping containers on a vacant lot owned by the city or leased to the city. A number of "port-a-potties" could be provided throughout the area. The doors could be removed from the containers to provide ventilation. Each container could accommodate a number of people, and all of them would have shelter and a place to live. The entire lot could be fenced-off to protect them and their belongings.</p> <p>Thank you for your concerns and assistance to solve this problem.</p>
Mr. Brendan Edmonds	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I wanted to send a short note to thank you for intervening with respect to the homeless ordinance here in Austin. None of the rationale thus far offered by Mayor Adler and his supporters have made any sense to me, and the ordinance does nothing but encourage homelessness and make Austin a more attractive destination for transients. These people being constantly referred to as my "neighbors," and references to human sh*t and garbage piling up in the open as being ok because "it's always been there and is now just more visible" has gotten tiring. I have a number of specific feelings/ideas on the issue, but wanted to quickly thank you. My actual neighbors and I greatly appreciate you stepping up to represent us.</p> <p>Best regards, Brendan</p>
Mr. Aaric Eisenstein	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thanks for making clear to the City of Austin that current policies on homelessness aren't working. The result is a disaster for all the citizens of Austin and is especially bad for the poor people living in conditions that we wouldn't tolerate for a dog.</p> <p>Affordable housing for the people who can manage their own affairs needs to be built. They need transitional help to get back on their feet and into "regular" society. This needs to be done expeditiously, without the notorious Austin permitting/reviews/delays that make Austin the butt of jokes across the state.</p> <p>For the people who can't currently manage their own affairs - weather due to drugs, alcohol, mental issues, or a combination - they need to be taken under the state's care, no differently than if they were abandoned children who weren't in a position to care for themselves. They need to be institutionalized and kindly given the treatment they need to regain their abilities to function in society. Giving these people the "freedom" to live in squalor, subject to violence and the elements, is abject cruelty masquerading as civil liberties.</p> <p>Austin lacks the executive structure to rapidly implement decisions - even if the City could make them. In the meantime - every single day - real people are living in conditions that no one in a state as rich as Texas - financially and ethically - should have to endure. You are absolutely right to step in and protect all of us when the city government has so clearly failed.</p> <p>Thank you very much, Aaric Eisenstein</p>
Yvonne Facey	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Please help stop the City of Austin council from allowing homeless camping everywhere like California. These people should be placed in accommodations with toilets etc. They should not be allowed to beg on street corners as this only fuels their bad behavior. If they refuse to follow the rules that the 99% of the city's residents follow, they should be evicted to a camp ground down near the Texas border.</p>

Ms. Kathleen M Fad Ph.D.	6/24/2019	Austin	<p>I have to admit that I don't often agree with you or with the Republicans in Texas. However, I was so happy to see that you might overturn Austin's recent move to legalize camping, squatting, sleeping, panhandling, and other types of unsafe behaviors by the ever increasing homeless population in downtown Austin. I think the people who think all of that is okay don't live here. For many of us who do live downtown and have watched the mayor and city council do nothing to stem the tide of homelessness, the situation can be very frightening and disappointing, especially as we pay outrageous property taxes.</p> <p>The only thing I would add is this: Texas spends the least per capita of any state on mental health services. So when you overturn the Austin efforts to allow anyone to do anything they want, how about allocating some money for mental health and then expand Medicaid? Many of these people are mentally ill and others are addicts. They need to be off the streets and sidewalks but they also need services and treatment.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>
Ms. Kathleen M Fad Ph.D.	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Please ban all temporary structures like tents and lean-tos in Austin. They are not permitted or inspected and they have no sanitation. They are the source of urine, feces, and trash.</p> <p>Please clean out the camps from underpasses, parks, streets, right-of-ways, sidewalks, etc. We have had enough! And our billion dollar library is now a homeless shelter.</p>
Mr. David G Fawcett	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>The Mayor of Austin is destroying Austin with his homeless strategy. It is a health and safety crisis. Adler adopts the destructive California policies. Please use your Executive powers to safe Austin from its leaders.</p>
Ms. Martha E Fischer	7/12/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Gov. Abbott, I know that this will not get to you directly, but wanted to voice my opinion. I have been a supporter of yours since you were Attorney General, and have contributed to your re-elections efforts for several years. Anyway, be that as it may, I live in Austin, Texas and I've lived and worked here continuously since 1994. I attended UT in the 1960's- 70's. Austin has become such a nightmare to me! The homeless are camping and disturbing folks all over the city. I have a downtown business, and it is distressing to our customers, and a disgrace to our Capitol City to have our tourist concerned for their safety. I too am concerned for my safety and welfare. This is NOT the Austin Texas that I grew up to know and love. Please help us homeowners and residence by creating laws that require cities to provide a safer environment for all of us to live, and take the homeless off the streets.</p> <p>I do have one big question: Most of the encampments are on the overpasses or underpasses of US Interstates or State operated highways, who owns them? Does the city of Austin own them and thus our City Mayor has the ability to allow vagrant encampments? Or does the US government, or the State of Texas own these, and you and John Cornyn can do something to disallow camping in these area.</p> <p>Thanks for listening! I hope you can do something to bring law and order back into our neighborhood.</p> <p>Martha Fischer</p>
Mr. Trevor Fitzsimmons	7/23/2019	Cedar Park	<p>Dear Governor Abbott:</p> <p>Homeless people are nice, good people and they don't deserve what they have to go through. There are tons of good people just sleeping out on the street for no reason and you're not doing anything. If you went through an ounce of what some people have to go through you'd be writing a bill and pushing it through Congress right now, not all dressed up going to fancy meetings everyday. I don't know what else to say other than nobody should have to sleep on concrete with nothing, but a thin blanket to cover them when it's freezing outside. I sincerely hope you all have a wonderful day.</p> <p>Visit invisiblepeople.tv to hear raw, unedited and unfiltered stories from people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Trevor Fitzsimmons</p> <p>Cedar Park, TX</p>
Ms. Elizabeth Z Flagg	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE LETTER TO AUSTIN!!!(Regarding the homeless). This has been going on for years and they-the Austin city government- are simply incompetent. You just earned a voter for your next election. Best Wishes, Elizabeth Z. Flagg, RN, Austin resident.</p>
Mrs. Karen Z Flanagan	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Help us get the homeless off the public areas in Austin. I get that they need help, but offer them a safe place to camp with oversight for their safety, place to safely cook/prepare food, and a place to go to the bathroom. If they won't take the "safe camping place", then they need to be jailed/held. This is getting to be too much. I almost hit a person at Cameron Road and 183 because they just walked out in front of my car.</p>
Dr. Neal T Foley	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you, Thank you, Thank you for taking control of the dismal homeless situation in Austin. The leaders of the city are turning our great capital city into a cesspool with their distorted and bizarre policies. Thank you for your much needed action.</p>

Mrs. Concerned Citizen	7/12/2019	Portland, OR for Austin	<p>Hello Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I am a resident of Portland, Oregon. I want to keep anonymous because I do not want my name out there; I'm very private. I am writing because I NEED you to know that you should do everything possible to reverse Austin City Council's decision on homeless camping. I NEED you to know that if you don't, your beautiful city will be ruined like ours, and it will happen fast. I NEED you to know that you and all others are very right to be concerned about what this will do. The longer it goes, the more irreversible this becomes. This is not a Republican/Democrat or conservative/liberal thing. It has everything to do with common sense and the safety and stability of your city. I am a liberal and Democrat, and I stand by your decision to reverse this 100%.</p> <p>I wanted to share my personal experience of living in Portland for the last 8 years, and what my spouse and I have seen with the homeless situation you are now facing. Ever since this happened to our city several years ago, businesses in our downtown area started closing down. City streets became dirty. Customers and employees did not feel safe due to harassment, urination, defecation, and littering happening right in front of these businesses. Drug use, burglaries, and panhandling are higher than ever all over the city. A majority of these people are not just experiencing a financial misfortune; they have mental issues, are heavy drug users that have chosen that life, or are criminals. There is a minority who are just truly down and out, but they won't be the ones causing you headaches.</p> <p>Ever since, we have elected a new mayor every cycle, hoping someone would fix the wrong the one did, only to be disappointed. Residents are fleeing in droves; I'm talking long term residents (people who have lived here 10, 15, or 20+ years). This is not an exaggeration. We waste more money in the resources we have to use to clear our city and these camps (full of drug needles!), only for them to do it all over again. Our police and politicians have become indifferent; the police doesn't even respond to actual threats by them anymore. They all care more about the homeless than the taxpaying citizens and businesses that support them. My spouse and I have had enough, and we have been planning our exit from this city as well for some time.</p> <p>Governor Abbott, I cannot stress enough that this situation WILL ruin your beautiful city. It will be very hard to come back from it. I think that a solution like San Antonio's is a smart approach. I truly hope you are successful in reversing the council's decision, so that you don't become like Portland. Austinites deserve better.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>A Concerned Citizen for Austin</p> <p>P.S. My email address is valid, and can be reached there for any further communication.</p>
Ms. Jennifer Forrest	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>The mayor of Austin cites credible (only minimally flawed in one instance, but nevertheless the result of RESEARCH, something your office seems to be short on in all respects) data regarding national homelessness vs. Austin and how the city is dealing with the situation. What is the governor going to do on Nov. 1, the date of his deadline for dealing with the Austin homelessness situation? Will he have them gunned down? Have them shot in the legs? Have them imprisoned? Hmm, the shanty structures are reminiscent of the Depression era. Does that not suggest an economic situation beyond just mere homelessness to the governor, our no nonsense governor? Still waiting for a call from the governor to explain his rationale for his tough love actions and his squandering of taxpayer funds.</p>
Mrs. Ann Fox	10/3/2019	austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott</p> <p>I am writing about the homeless crisis in Austin. While walking to a store last week in Town, I was harassed by a homeless man looking for money. This made me very scared and decided to just leave the store area to my car. Please continue to fight Travis County and the Mayor regarding this issue. Our once beautiful City is in shambles !! Thank you</p>
Mr. Eddie J Franco	10/4/2019	AUSTIN	<p>I just wanted to thank the Governor for addressing the homeless problem today. It has totally got out of hand and everyone I talk to agrees, even liberals being that it's a safety , health problem. The kids can't even go down to the store without having to encounter the the camps sites and step over the people ,drugs and human waste.Just glad someone is speaking up. Thanks again.Eddie Franco</p>

Mr. Steve Furrer	7/3/2019	Round Rock	<p>I have lived in and around Austin since 1999. I have seen the homeless problem grow incrementally over the years. I took great pride in having friends come into town and wanting to take them into Austin to see our beautiful city and the special features it offers. I have heard of the Austin City Council's move to allow the homeless to camp out on our city streets and in public areas. We do not want our city to be overrun and taken over by the homeless like L.A. and Seattle and other cities have, fostering the additional influx of those who only want to beg on our streets. This being allowed to happen will dissuade ANYONE from outside our city from wanting to visit and those who live and work there to dread living and working among the eventual refuse and filth that this ordinance will allow. Are we going to have to create a "poop patrol" like some other cities have to clean the human excrement off our city streets so that patrons going to the movies at the Paramount or a concert at the Moody Theatre will not track this into businesses that draw thousands to our fair city? Why not redirect some funds used to "enable" illegal aliens from taking up residence in our city and build tiny house villages like other city's have successfully done? Are you willing to have Auditorium Shores be turned into Pandemonium Shores as a tent city and have to deal with the misplacement of thousands repeatedly when South By Southwest comes around or one of the many other festivals that Austin hosts? I am appalled by the misguided path that the Austin City Council has taken when prime examples of what "has" happened in other cities is blatantly evident in the national news. Why not convert some of the vacant stand alone big box stores into additional homeless shelters and then man then appropriately to redirect those homeless back to contributing citizens instead of throwing them onto our parks and streets in our city? Please make changes to get this decision rescinded and a plan established to prevent our city from falling even farther into the darkness of this miasma. Thank you. Steve Furrer</p>
Mr. Tim Gahagan	6/28/2019	Georgetown	<p>First off I want to commend you for taking a hard line stance with the City of Austin's new approach to decriminalize acts that continue to propagate homelessness. Many argue that any approach that does not give homeless individuals complete immunity to State and Local Laws is callous and it has no empathy for the problem. This is just not true, adults can have empathy and be against a stance of lawlessness targeted at any group regardless of the trials and tribulations which got them there.</p> <p>As you know, handouts and freebies only create a system where they continue to be dependent and never actually put on the big boy pants and make themselves a part of society. Many that apply to, and of course others there are mental issues, and some of that might be cyclical due to the downward spiral. No matter, weaker citizens have overcome adversity and become not just contributing members of society, but sometimes even climbed higher than the average citizen, in public service, politics, and creating companies which help those that are where the founders rose from.</p> <p>But let me get back to the point regarding Austin's new direction to allow 'camping' anywhere. I told my Bride to be that we should just rent out our house and park the RV on the Town Lake Bike Trail and enjoy FREE waterfront living since that would be the same thing they want to allow.</p> <p>It reminds me of my parents traveling through Our Great State as well as New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming in the late 50's and 60's each year in their pickup trucks, with only a pickup camper top, camping and cooking while on vacation. Dad spoke of the "hippies" that took over all the National and State Parks, camping just anywhere that they choose. All thought Dad used terms like "hippie" as derogative, the point is more that it is a movement or group of people that are just outside of the normal expected behavior of most citizens. Due to this movement, State, Federal and Local government enacted Maximum Stay limits on camping, camping only in designated areas, and maximum number of people at a camp site.</p> <p>It was because if people can camp anywhere, that anywhere lacks the resources to support it. Without trash collection/cleanup, restrooms, the uncontrolled use leads to trash piling up, feces never cleaned up, all which washes into our lakes and rivers. This is exactly what started the Bubonic Plague.</p> <p>So to the point, there are numerous ways to force the City of Austin to enforce the laws that are on the books. One issue is the endless camping/sleeping/bed rolls under bridges. Much of this property is OWNED by THE STATE OF TEXAS and simply putting up 30.05 NO TRESPASS / NO LOITERING / NO CAMPING signs will give The State, or ANY CITIZEN the ability to simply call the police, sheriff, DPS and say, get them to pack up and move on. We are tax payers and we are done with this.</p> <p>We have rules and laws for a reason. Many this day and age have forgotten WHY we have these rules, and clammer that they are unjust, unfair, and target specific people. The do target specific people, those that BREAK said laws.</p> <p>So simply taking some funds, and having the State print signs referencing laws that are ALREADY on our books, force our authorities to act. If they choose to disregard those signs, and State Law, then our Attorney General can file suit and get them to respond, or it will cost them a boat load of money, which will pay for the signs.</p> <p>Just a thought, since that is just simply a management solution, that does not require the Ledge to get back in session to write a new law (which I would guess will be ill planned and half hatched.)</p>

Mr. Sean Gallagher	8/20/2019	Austin	<p>The homeless camping all over the city has been a major safety issue for my kids. We used to walk to the Walgreens at 7410 McNeil Dr, Austin, TX 78729 but now we do not because we fear for my kids' safety because there is a large homeless population under the bridge. We do not feel safe with the new city ordinance.</p>
Mr. Michael S Galland	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for the letter you sent to MAyor Adler. I am a 4th generation Texan, UT Austin graduate, and resident of Austin since 2006. City council has gotten out of control with their narrow, political agendas and are deaf to common sense. I have expressed my discontent with the homeless ordinance along with 30K other Austinites to no avail.</p> <p>I want to thank you for actually doing something to solve a real problem. I hope you follow your words with real, decisive action if the City continues to ignore the health, safety, community standards, and basic wishes of its residents.</p>
Ms. Irene G Garza	7/29/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbot,</p> <p>I would like to thank you in advance for reversing the Homeless Ordinance that our City Council has repealed. I have already written Mayor Steve Adler to let him know I do not agree with his action and requested he reverse the position.</p> <p>I cannot begin to imagine how horrible it must be to be homeless, but allowing them to camp on sidewalks or under overpass is not ok. I pay exorbitant taxes to not feel safe walking around this city, specially in my neighborhood. I do not want for Austin to turn into Oakland. There is a big community of tents under overpass where the homeless have set themselves up, they have taken over the sidewalks. I experienced this during my last visit there and it made me feel very unsafe.</p> <p>This morning I saw Eddie, the man that has been sitting at the intersection of Atlanta & Lake Austin Blvd for years, yelling at a woman who was waiting for a light change, he was being very threatening and even flipped her the finger. He as well has made a huge mess at the intersection and it is always full of trash.</p> <p>Thank you for taking action by reversing the Homeless to set up tents on sidewalks.</p> <p>Regards, Irene</p>
Ms. Mary Gawron	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Gov. Abbott,</p> <p>You wrote:</p> <p>"As the Governor of Texas, I have the responsibility to protect the health and safety of all Texans, including Austin residents," writes Abbott. "Further inaction by you and the Austin City Council will leave me no choice other than to use the tools available to the State of Texas to ensure that people are protected from health and safety concerns caused by the Austin homeless policies. As a result, I will give you until November 1, 2019, to demonstrate consequential improvement in the Austin homelessness crisis and the danger it poses to the health and safety of the public. If meaningful reforms are not implemented by then, I will direct every applicable state agency to act to fulfill my responsibility to protect the health and safety of Texans in your jurisdiction."</p> <p>YES! you do have the responsibility to ensure that ALL citizens - poor, sick, black, brown, white and wealthy - are protected. Show state financial support and don't use bullying and threats, like Trump, to provide housing, health care, jobs and meaningful coordinated support to the many Texas citizens who need our assistance to live in dignity. Be a leader of ALL Texans, not a pitiful out of touch bully for the more fortunate ones.</p>
Ms. Nancy Gay	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for addressing the issue of homelessness in Austin and giving a deadline to deal with the issue. Since Austin rescinded the camping ban, we have been overrun with homeless people in our city. It's awful. It's ruining our city and the tax paying residents of this city should not have to put up with this.</p> <p>On just about any other issue, we don't agree, but at last we have found an issue that we both support. I support a panhandling ban and camping ban in Austin. I also support funding treatment programs, but not housing; especially without enrollment in and compliance with treatment program requirements.</p> <p>Sincerely, Nancy Gay</p>
Mr. Dean Geuras	6/26/2019	Austin	<p>Vagrants and derelicts are making parts of Austin unsafe and filthy. They are also reducing the value of both private residences and businesses. The City Council, which has done a poor job of protecting the people of Austin from the "homeless," has now passed laws that make it even harder for the police to arrest them. Please do whatever you can to save this city and it's residents.</p>
Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Giese	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>We understand that you are considering an executive order to reverse Austin City Council's policy on letting the homeless camp in any public place. We urge you to do so. The health and sanitation issues are becoming increasingly worse in Austin.</p>

Mrs. Murlene Gillum	7/12/2019	Kyle	<p>Thank you Gov for standing up against our city counsel. I'm of the opinion that they are turning our city into California. Yes we have a problem with homeless people and they have rights but their rights should not trim my rights. My husband and I had to move out of Austin because of Taxes and Utilities. With Austin owning all the electricity and water you don't stand a chance especially when your in your seventies and still having to work.</p> <p>I'm a born and raised and very Proud Texan, my wonderful Dad worked for the city of Austin most of his life and his Dad Edwin Wheeler who fell from the capital while painting 1921. So you see I've always been proud of my State but I'm not so proud of our city counsel and Mayor.</p> <p>The counsel is trying to please all out of state people and not the people who built this city.</p> <p>Thanks for letting me bend your ear.</p> <p>Please continue to be our great Governor.</p> <p>Murlene Gillum</p>
Ms. Cathy Gips	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you Gov Abbott for stepping in concerning the homeless population in Austin, TX. I am a born and raised Texan who is saddened by the way that our property taxes continue to double every ten years forcing us out of our homes and hopefully not out of our great state. At the same time, giving away our hard earned taxpayers dollars to people that have no desire to contribute to society.</p> <p>We cannot continue to enable people at the expense of our elderly and veterans who have actually contributed and need the help. You are doing a fine job and I support/commend you.</p> <p>Sincere thanks!</p>
Mrs. Angela Gollihare	7/3/2019	Georgetown	<p>The new City Ordinance for homeless. i work in Austin and I find this ordinance to be dangerous. Just last week we had a guy attack our staff and cops had to be called. Now they can legally sleep on the sidewalks and such. This should not be allowed and this city council is a joke. This doesn't even help the homeless in their situations, but makes it more dangerous for the rest of us. I work in a hotel and we have families with small children. Please do something about this. Its not right and this isn't the solution.</p>
Ms. Amy R Gomillion	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott.</p> <p>I want to let you know that I fully support your efforts to combat Austin's new Homeless Policy. I am a University of Texas graduate with a M.S. in Social Work. I devoted my years at university to the understanding and development of compassion and activism for those struggling in our society. Austin's new blind eye toward the epidemic of poverty and substance abuse is not only cruel to those suffering an illness, it is a travesty to set such an example for our children of callous apathy.</p> <p>Move forward with your stance of resistance. You have my support.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Amy Reeves Gomillion</p>
Mr. Monte Gomillion	10/3/2019	AUSTIN	<p>Good Morning Governor Abbot,</p> <p>I saw that you plan to intervene in Austin's current approach to solving the homeless crisis.</p> <p>Austin's new blind eye toward the epidemic of poverty and substance abuse is not only cruel to those suffering an illness, it is a travesty to set such an example for our children of callous apathy.</p> <p>Move forward with your stance of resistance as soon as possible please!</p> <p>You have my support!</p> <p>Monte Gomillion</p>
Mrs. Jill Gonzalez	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Thank you for your letter to the Austin Mayor regarding homelessness, and the need to fix it now. Today, I was pleasantly surprised to see police, trucks, and workers cleaning up one of the "tent cities" on the corner of S Lamar and West Gate.</p> <p>As a former nurse who earned her Community Health Clinical Nurse Specialist certification, the impact of homelessness does need to be addressed within our community. I support State mental hospitals and live-in residences as that is compassionate. Many on the streets have mental health issues, as well as addiction to drugs or alcohol. It is heart breaking to see the Mayor's solution of "you can live on the streets in tents." That is no solution.</p> <p>I volunteer with my therapy dog at Austin State Supported Living Center (ASSLC), and the residents are well cared for. I believe ASSLC has empty beds and buildings which could be utilized for providing housing, mental health services, addiction recovery, and many other compassionate services. The grounds are absolutely stunning with enormous trees, park-like pathways, and beautiful brick buildings. This would be a compassionate solution.</p> <p>Again, thank you for your letter.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jill Gonzalez</p>

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Goss	10/3/2019	Flower Mound	How about butting out of Austin's business! The city is working this homeless problem and does not need your micro-management! Stick to the border.
Mrs. BeLinda S Gould	7/3/2019	Schertz	Dear Governor Abbott, Please DO get involved with controlling the horrible decision Austin has made to allow homeless/transient people more access to living/sleeping on the streets and panhandling. Please help the UT parents to protect our students from excessive exposure to potential danger. At the very least help create a perimeter around the university to protect this vulnerable population. Young adults aren't as aware of their surroundings or capable of discerning danger. This particular group of young adults is quite honestly desensitized by the presence of so many homeless/transient individuals. Thank you for your work and service! BeLinda S Gould
Mrs. BeLinda S Gould	9/26/2019	Schertz	Thank you for the response regarding the homeless camping crisis in Austin. I appreciated hearing your stance on it and I and the other concerned parents of Safe Horns have been contacting city and university leaders to no avail! We would like to know when the State will be getting involved and overriding the cities disregard of public safety and common sense. I have posted the previous response on the Safe Horns Parents page and I know they will be anxious to receive follow up.
Ms. Letha Gramlich	7/19/2019	Wharton	Please stop allowing homeless to camp on public streets! You have a beautiful city of Austin our capital of Texas and you are going to turn it into another LA! Shame on you! We will have feces, rats and diseases in no time! How could you do this! I will not vote for you next time! For shame!
Mrs. Kimberly Griffin	9/11/2019	Cedar Park	I've been a citizen of Texas for 18 years and an employee of an Austin business for over 8 years. In all this time I have felt safe in my hometown and my workplace. However, since the Austin City Council has made changes to ordinances related to the homeless population I have seen a dramatic uptick in homeless encampments on my route to work. Since the changes took effect on July 1st, we have had two vagrants sleeping on our work premises in the early morning hours. Our employees don't feel safe. This morning one of our staff called 911 (which 311 advised her to do) to report a vagrant sleeping on our private property. Four hours later the police have yet to respond. Thank goodness the situation did not become an emergency. I care about the safety of the employees working in this building as well as our guests and clients. The city of Austin is not addressing the safety concerns of its businesses and its citizens. It's unacceptable. My hope is that our state can help the city find a solution to help and protect every citizen.
Ms. Tara S Griswold	7/10/2019	Austin	Please continue to address the bad decisions the Austin City Council are making for Austin Texas. In Allendale, we do not want more homeless people camping in our neighborhood or on public spaces. This councils is too quick to make a decision without realizing the impact they have on long time residents. Are they only focused on the future of the tech community and do not care about the native citizens that have supported this city thru ts growth? We are tired of being run over by their bad decisions.
Mrs. Brandi D Gruis	9/27/2019	Austin	I live in Travis County and am a registered voter. Our family of four has been amazed at what the city of Austin is doing in the spirit of "compassion for the homeless." What is compassionate about littering the environment with human waste, tarps, junk, needles, etc.? In effort to not criminalize homelessness, the city has opened the flood gates to terrible environmental and safety issues. Many of the homeless are suffering from substance abuse issues, which is why they do not want to stay in a shelter. There are rules there that prohibit use of illegal substances. There are rules there to procure safety and health. So, in essence, we've condoned the public use of drugs. These individuals do not need to be encouraged to live on the streets - that is NOT compassion. Encouraging them to continue a life in squalor is inhumane. Offering real solutions such as half-way houses, drug programs and shelters, afford them a chance at the discipline and programs they need to get off the drugs and become productive members of society. Of course we realize not everyone is on drugs; there are many other issues such as mental health, etc. It is not criminal to need mental health services. It does seem criminal to condone filthy environments wherein the mentally ill can be absorbed and possibly taken advantage of. Where in the U.S. has this type of approach been effective? Skid Row in LA is a nightmare. Is history not the best teacher? When will the tax payers, who actually obey the law, abstain from illegal substances, volunteer in communities, and positively contribute to society, be considered? When will our safety, property values and general rights be protected? We need to wake up. The city of Austin is run by career Liberals who have subjected to madness, our city parks, bridges and public property (except City Hall - it's illegal to camp there. Those who instituted the rule can't live with it.) We need the Governor to step in; the city council is impulsive and is out of control. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Brandi Gruis

Dino J Gutierrez USA (Ret.)	9/6/2019	Sir, I live in a suburb north of Austin but have to work in Austin. Last week I was downtown Austin and homeless were everywhere, plus 5th street smelled like urine. I understand Austin made it legal to camp anywhere to include on sidewalks. I had to walk and the panhandlers were everywhere. Are we turning into California, I spoke with a person who came from California, said of course why not. I was shocked because he was smiling as he said this. I came to Texas because it's veteran-friendly, I retired out of Fort Hood. But now I see California in Texas, tents under overpasses, when does that creep into Bertram. I wrote an article to the Statesmen and doubt it got published, I got no response that it was published. I only stated facts, Californians are bringing the same politics that destroyed that state, look at San Francisco and Los Angeles. I know if they try to invade my place, I will shoot, of course, castle state. Sadly I have to go back downtown, see more disgusting sights, I hold my breath as pass up the homeless because they stink. I'm not worried about getting assaulted, I can take care of myself, the Army trained me well. Sadly I can't carry even though I have LTC, working and an armed Insurance agent is bad for business, plus could scare potential clients. If you get a chance watch Seattle is dying, will that be Austin, sadly San Antonio is number two on crimes per 100K.
Mr. Everett E Hall Jr.	10/3/2019	AUSTIN Dear Gov. Abbott, THANK YOU for representing our city's citizens in Austin's homeless debacle. Sincerely, Everett Hall Austin, TX
Mr. Richard S Hall	10/7/2019	Austin Thank you thank you thank Governor Abbott for your position & statement to the Mayor on Austin homelessness issue! Even with your clearly written letter the Mayor choose to misinterpret in his public reaction. I trust his extensive prior legal career gives him the better personal clarity than his perhaps political public comments. If he & the City Council want to make public encampments on sidewalk and ROWs a legal right..or non enforced status..then I suggest homeless be brought to the sidewalks in front of each of the Yea voting council and mayors' residences! You have my full support!
Mr. George P Hartmann	10/3/2019	Manchaca I want to sincerely commend you for taking a strong stance on the issue of homelessness and the City of Austin mayor and council. Thank you
Mr. Charles Harwell	9/5/2019	Corsicana I recently read where the Austin city council has approved homeless people camping or putting up other structures on public property and side walks in Austin. We have all seen the horrific conditions in San Francisco, L.A. and other cities. I believe within two years, Austin will look and smell just like that. I submit, that our Capitol city does not belong to a handful of liberals to destroy as they please. Every tax paying citizen of Texas has contributed to our Capitol city in one form or another. Please tell me there is something that can be done to avert this disaster.
Mr. Steven M Hayes	8/28/2019	Austin As an Austinite and Texan who pays tens of thousands in taxes I implore your office to do something about the COA homeless policies!! We have to protect this city, citizens and university from this dangerous precedent! Create new laws please!
Mrs. Taryn E Hayes	9/12/2019	Austin The HOMELESS situation in Austin is out of control and Mayor Adler and the city council are doing nothing but ruining Austin! The budget passed last night and the amount of money allocated to the homeless is outlandish and not fiscally prudent! My husband and I watched an LSU fan and his wife be verbally accosted as well as threatened on W. 2nd Street and San Antonio. It's a dangerous situation and Adler's ego as well as Greg Casar's ego and bizarre outlook and understanding of business and community are too big to admit they were wrong. A beautiful, young UT Student was raped and murdered last year by a homeless man...and now the situation is even more dangerous! They want to place a homeless shelter in each precinct! The majority of the homeless do not want help!! And other cities are dumping or sending their homeless with a bus ticket and a tent to Austin...do you blame them!? They're cleaning up their cities by sending them to Austin! The reason companies are no longer hosting events in Austin is not because of the size of the convention center...it's because of the danger polluting the downtown streets. The Arch needs to be moved from downtown and the land sold for development of a homeless community similar to Mobile Loaves and Fishes...that model has been proven to work. Please outlaw panhandling in Texas...that would help deter but not solve. Anything would help....it's mind-boggling to watch Adler attack the police for not being able to handle the homeless...wanting the badge number of anyone who is complaining he/she can't do their job! The budget in Austin passed last night also has an abortion line item....the council has lost its mind! HELP!!!!
Mr. Walter G Hebert	10/4/2019	Austin congrats on stepping in on our homeless situation in Austin. Mayor Adler and some council members are clueless in what Pandora's box they are opening . Stick to your guns on the date (Nov 1st) , the community and businesses have your back and you know that . Thank you Governor Abbott

Mrs. Shirley Hein	10/3/2019	Round Rock	<p>Dear Gov. Abbott:</p> <p>Regarding your recent letter to City of Austin Mayor Adler about the homeless situation in Austin. THANK YOU for being proactive in this situation. It is getting to the point where we are reticent to go into Austin because of all the homeless people wandering the streets. It is extremely dangerous to drive downtown at night for fear of hitting a homeless person stepping out into the roadway with no warning. Sadly, this once-beautiful state capitol city is looking like New York City of the 70s and San Francisco today.</p> <p>Again, thank you, and we support your efforts in making Austin a safe destination for residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Shirley Hein</p>
Mr. Matthew Hellinger	9/18/2019	Dripping Springs	<p>Gov. Abbott, please follow through on your threat to overturn Austin council's easing of homelessness rules. Austin is increasingly becoming Little California, complete with tent cities. This is a threat to the safety of Austin residents, visitors, and the homeless themselves who are setting up tents in the middle of highways. Additionally, the trash accumulating around these encampments makes for a very poor perception of Texas' capital city.</p> <p>There are better ways to deal with the homeless issue than to simply ignore it or represent that tents in the middle of a dense city is acceptable in a first world country.</p>
Mr. Harper Hendon	7/3/2019	Austin	<p>Mr. Abbott,</p> <p>I am writing to express concern on a recent change to the city of Austin's homeless ordinance. I am adamantly opposed to the changes and ask that you intervene on behalf of the state of Texas and overturn the changes. I travel for work to California and Washington on a consistent basis bearing witness first hand what this ordinance sets out to do. It creates a safety risk while degrading the quality of life for residents. Please act on behalf of the state and prevent legal camping on city streets.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Harper Hendon</p>
Mr. Geoff Herman Mrs. Amy J Hesse	10/3/2019 9/30/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for addressing the ridiculous homeless policy of the City of Austin. It is very much appreciated.</p> <p>Homelessness:</p> <p>Governor's office,</p> <p>Please intervene in the homeless problem our capital is facing. We need to create a no panhandling ordinance for not just the city but the county. We need to create facilities for the main demographics of homelessness; People that need a hand up, Mentally ill who need shelters that cater to their behavioral needs, and the content, people who like not having responsibilities to society. I personally have been homeless many times in my life. I can attest to the different types of homelessness. We need to address this issue before we lose control and end up having serious health issues and epidemics of different diseases. I love my capital and I do not believe our city leadership has control of the situation. I'm begging the governor's office to intervene before it's too late.</p> <p>Sincerely, Amy Hesse</p>
Mr. and Mrs. Tim L Hess	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>We applaud you in your recent expressions of taking State Action towards the homeless situation in Austin, Texas. The City's lack of initiative and urgent response to this worsening situation is appalling. Thank you for stepping in and we wanted you and your staff to know that we are fully in support of your actions to remedy this situation as quickly as possible. Our hearts go out to these homeless people and a remedy that not only provides for them wisely is necessary, but also one that provides the safety of all of our residents and visitors.</p> <p>Sincerely, Tim and Gail Hess</p>
Ms. Elva A Hibbs	10/7/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you Gov. Abbott for taking action regarding the growing unsightly, unsanitary, obscene, shameless, growing homeless problem in Austin. I have personally written to the mayor and city council 3 times to no avail. Please help us!</p> <p>An active supporter of yoursElva A. Hibbs</p>

Ms. Linda C Hightower 9/19/2019 Round Rock Governor Greg Abbott
Your Honourable,
I am most greatful to have this platform available to express my humble opinion of the homeless crisis in Austin.
I speak from personal experience as I was homeless several times in my life. Thankful there were no "free rides" in my time, unless it was to jail or state hospital. I am now 64yrs old, retired,from a career in real estate and finance, with a social security entitlement, and secure housing. My belief is that being homeless should be considered a TEMPORARY situation. Are we really helping a homeless individual out if we pour all these resources into "housing the homeless"? I think the resources would do allot more good if put into teaching the homeless how to house themselves. Like providing help to get replacement ID documents, provide a mailing address,provide showers,haircuts, and then resume/job skill training, Life skills training classes.
I think that resources could then come from other State Agencies ie: TX Workforce Center. What comes into my mind is the old Chinese proverb....
Give a man a fish, he eats for a day, teach a man to fish he feeds himself for a lifetime!!
Thank you Sir, for your time and consideration. You've done an amazing job with this emotional issue, wish you the best.
Hope I'm not overstepping my boundaries.
RESPECTFULLY,
LINDA HIGHTOWER

Ms. Linda C Hightower 9/19/2019 Round Rock Governor Abbott
Your Honor Sir,
I sent an earlier message, Linda Hightower again.
In addition to my earlier email after more thought on why there is a homeless epidemic in Austin? A light bulb moment and it is like most all aspects of our society today... look at the MONEY!
Having no panhandling laws, if we do we they are too lenient. A guesstimate that 80% of Austin's homeless population is migrant to Austin, because of the lack of regulated rules, laws and consequences. It allows them to collect panhandling 3X or more per/day than a legitimate tax paying JOB!! Hit them where it hurts in that tax free, non reported income money they're getting! I'm not up on the current panhandling regulations, a licenses, reporting of income, taxes, like the rest of us do and it would make gainful employment look a lot better. I foresee an almost instant drop in the homeless population, due to the migrant influx leaving.
We will loose the lucrative tourism trade or we loose the non productive, "homeless" trade. We live in a society if rules, boundaries, regulations and consequences. Why would we let a growing Gang like group of people extort the CITY OF AUSTIN? Set up like 5 various locations through out Austin that are HELP CENTERS, with resources I spoke of in my earlier email. It is an emotional, sensitive issue but we must take action quickly if Austin is to continue to thrive! Again, Thank you for your time and I appreciate your efforts!
Now this just got very serious and personal for me.
I have one child, 45yr old Son whom I am very proud of his accomplishments, especially with his disadvantages he got dumped on from my nievity.
He works in financial electronics and mostly Downtown Austin, this homeless crisis has gotten so serious they have actually used the ATM he us suppose to go open up and has a substantial amount of cash openly present!!! And works that area for 4+ yrs. So the danger of these homeless people planning a robbery is not at all above happening.
Email me I will send you pictures of what my baby is having to struggle with DAILY!
He has licenses to carry, but is so compassionate he can't fathom the thought of hurting or killing someone!!
Sir, I am begging you please for the safety of the dedicated working backbone of the Downtown Austin area.
Please show them the compassion and consideration being expected from the homeless and their representatives.
Sir I will speak out on behalf of the law abiding, tax paying, people that keep Austin thriving!!
Respectfully,
Linda Hightower

Lynda R Hill 7/10/2019 Flower Mound Please Mr. Governor stop this madness of allowing homeless population from living on our streets. Provide shelters or anything you must do to stop our Capital from becoming a cess pool like so many of other big cities in our once beautiful America. The buck has to stop somewhere, please be the one in authority to impose and enact laws against this destruction and this dysfunction.
I am a 7th generation Texan, my great grandchildren are 10th. You can imagine the pride I have for our state.. I will be even more proud if we do not go the way of the desecrated liberal cities by drug addicts and the non-leaders.
REMEMBER THE ALAMO!!!!!!

Mr. Todd Hittner	7/25/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott:</p> <p>I've lived in south Austin in the same house for over 23 years. In the last 5 years, I'm completely distraught with the ever increasing transient population that lives under Texas highways (specifically HWY 71/290). To make matters worse, Austin's mayor and city council decided it was in the city's best interest to completely decriminalize camping, sit & lie and 24 hour panhandling. I fear that this action will only attract more homeless to our area. Many have witnessed drug and alcohol abuse, indecent exposure, theft/burglary, etc.</p> <p>I urge you to work with the legislature and TXDOT to come up with a solution that doesn't make the land/right of way under Texas highways a free-for-all for the transient population. Furthermore, I'm not sure that mattresses, living room furniture, bbq grills and other household items should be allowed on our sidewalks and other public places.</p> <p>Please help before it's too late!</p> <p>Thank you, Todd Hittner Austin, TX</p>
Mr. TODD HITTNER	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>THANK YOU on behalf of the citizens of Austin, Texas, for today's letter addressed to Mayor Adler. The city council's disastrous homeless policy has led to an ugly, trashed city. Today, in a true demonstration of hypocrisy, the city of Austin paid contractors and police to secure and tear down the pallet structures and clean up piles of trash under Ben White Blvd (TX 290) between Pack Saddle Pass and S. Lamar Blvd just in time for Austin City Limits music festival.</p> <p>Why do ACL visitors get to see a cleaner version of the city than its every day citizens? Once this brutal summer gives in to fall weather with rain, we're going to see the flood damage caused by all of the trash and waste in our creeks, culverts and water ways. Unfortunately our delusional mayor thinks he can spend his way out of this problem. He's raising taxes to the maximum rate (again), spending a record \$63M on homeless issues, all while hog tying our law enforcement, allowing pallet/cardboard structures to be erected under the guise of "camping", open drug use, indecent exposure....and the list of failures goes on and on.</p> <p>I look forward to seeing the state's action response on November 1. This city's leadership isn't going to help its TAX PAYING citizens. They're too busy virtue signaling their pretentious concern for the homeless, emulating the failed policies of the west coast</p>
Mrs. Loni Hoang	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for sending the letter to Mayor Adler about the homeless crisis going on in Austin! The City Council and the Mayor's office does not want to admit they made a mistake with their decision on the homeless ordinance. Despite the public outcry, they have done nothing to solve the issue. Thank you so much for helping us here in Austin. We appreciate you so much!</p> <p>-Loni Hoang</p>
Mrs. Karen Hoekstra	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Camping ordinance change in Austin is a public health issue, environmental issue and bad policy change.</p> <p>I am a registered Democrat- but I know this is a disaster in the making. I have lived in Texas for 30+ years. I am a retired public school teacher.</p> <p>This capital city of Texas now looks shabby, dirty and closer to something you would see near Harlem or Los Angeles.</p> <p>Please do something! Bring sanity back to Austin.</p> <p>Sincerely, Karen Hoekstra</p>
Mr. Bill Hoglan	8/20/2019	Georgetown	<p>I am concerned that our Capitol City is becoming another New York or San Francisco. The city is too permissive in allowing Homeless to litter sidewalks and public property with their camping. Their permissive attitude towards drinking alcohol, Gays and School dress codes are not helping. Then there is little concern over Debt Bonds and hight property taxes. These are forcing flight of their citizens to outlying towns that are becoming cities burdened with debt because of growth from Austin.</p> <p>Welcome to Texafornia or Texayork!</p>
Mr. Bill Hoglan	10/3/2019	Georgetown	<p>Homeless Camps: Bravo! Clean up the city. Austin is not going to. Their inclusive and will allow the City to degenerate into a Third World City. Personally if I were 'King' the homeless would all be arrested, detained and processed just like the Illegals. Provide a place to clean em up, cloth and feed them. The process them into Mental Institutions, Prison, Jobs or relocate to their families.</p> <p>Past: People from Viet Nam were held in detention camps at Guam. Japanese during WW2 and POWs from Germany were in detention camps. To me Homelessness could use the same treatment. A place to go that is safe and has facilities.</p> <p>Bill Hoglan Native Texan Retired</p>

Mr. Kerry Hoke	7/9/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>The other day I was trying to work from the Austin Central Library on the sixth floor. Everything was going fine for about 30 minutes. A man sat in the chair in the section next to me. I did not notice. A moment later, I noticed his jerky movements. OK, fine, so the guy is like that. But then he started to snicker and laugh to himself as he looked around the room. He took out his cell phone, and using his finger, he started to swipe forward in a manner that he was pretending that he was shooting everyone in the room and he even made the shooting sounds and with each swipe he was effectively mentally shooting everyone and laughing audibly. That's when I packed up and left.</p> <p>During another visit, I watched as a homeless man, sitting at a computer and typing, sneezed, with mucus streaming out of his nose and dangling. He continued to type. Then after about 10 seconds, he wiped it, but he did not use a tissue, the mucus remained on his hand, and he continued to type.</p> <p>At any given time during the day at that library, you will see homeless people carrying with them their luggage, their plastic bags filled with stuff, they are moving about, they are not using the library for what it's intended to be used for, they look terrible, they are unclean, their clothes are soiled, they are taking the elevators when people with their children are trying to take the elevators, it's just a bad situation.</p> <p>This is a serious, serious issue. That library is still pretty damn brand new. And it's just sad. It's just sad.</p> <p>Kerry</p>
Mr. Clinton C Holcomb	7/15/2019	Amarillo	<p>I support you. However, I have been absolutely disappointed in the handling of Texas' homeless situation. Austin, really?! This is how diseases are spread. No one should be allowed to camp out on the streets. You should build camps to house these people. They lost their right to be in public take our cities back! Make an example. Be the change. Save Texas!!</p>
Ms. Stacie N Holiday	10/4/2019	Buda	<p>Governor Abbott, Thank you for stepping in to take action on homelessness situation in Austin. It is destroying a city and making it unsafe. I have two children and I'm afraid to walk in Austin with them. I also work at a school an homeless people are constantly making it unsafe for our students. The camping under streets is not sanitary. They are urinating every where and fecal matter is polluting lady bird lake. Please help us! You have my vote. Thank you for standing up and taking care of Texans.</p>
Mr. David Homan	10/2/2019	Katy	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>As an Austin resident I want to say Thank You (!) for doing something our local liberal leadership refuses to recognize as a problem: the homeless invasion. The Bible says that the poor will always be with us, but simply ignoring the problem cannot lead to better, safer lives for both the residents and the homeless. If Mayor Adler wants to see the longer-term cost of inaction, he should go to San Francisco and walk from the Financial District to Pacific Heights.</p> <p>Regards, Dave Homan Austin, Texas</p>
Mr. Clayton Hoover	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I wanted to personally thank you for your letter to Mayor Adler regarding Austin's homeless ordinances. I have been to many town halls, I have contacted all council members and the Mayor many times, I have been at city hall. I have been ignored. Citizens of Austin feel that they do not have representation on this issue. The public response against the ordinance changes has been overwhelming, yet council does nothing. We have unfortunately elected activists like Greg Casar to our council who are pushing an agenda that hurts our city. I feel completely ignored by my Mayor and Council on this, and I'm in favor of helping the homeless through a personal accountability model such as community first village. Giving them free reign to use drugs and defecate on the streets, and antagonize the public is not the answer. Cities like Seattle and Portland are case studies of what not to do, why follow in the same footsteps? Thanks for representing us, we need your help! I am an Abbott voter already but this response has been the best thing I have personally experienced in government, I am a fan for life. Thank You.</p> <p>Best Regards, Clayton Hoover</p>
I. J. Hubbard	7/10/2019	Austin	<p>Please override the city of Austin's new public camping rules. Help our city put public safety and common sense first and find better solutions for the homeless and citizens.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

Mrs. Stacey Hull	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>As you are aware, Austin is facing a homeless crisis and the newly enacted direction of the Austin City Council has created an environment for much concern. As one of the few remaining native Austinites, I am saddened to see our beautiful capitol city being sacrificed. Although I do not have a one size fits all solution, I do know that the current situation threatens the health and safety of everyone. Having grown up in a small family business, I am unsettled by the sight of homeless individuals sleeping, camping, etc. in front of the offices of the very people that make our town so great. I fear that our tourism industry will also be impacted as no one wants to visit places where they feel uncomfortable or encounter unsightly situations. I ask that you intervene on behalf of the citizens and business owners of Austin, in order to ensure that we do not become the next San Francisco or Seattle. I love Austin and have chosen to raise my children here, but it is quickly becoming a place I do not recognize.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to our State and for your concern for the communities in which we all reside.</p> <p>Sincerely, Stacey Hull</p>
Mr. Steven Hurley	7/8/2019	Denton	<p>Gov. Abbott, demonizing the homeless is not an effective approach to dealing with the dramatic changes in our economy that are leaving tens of thousands of Texans homeless. Why don't you and the Republican party do meaningful things, like policies that support a living wage, support the integration of non-violent ex-cons into the workforce, address the mental health factors in homelessness, increase access to affordable housing. Demonizing rhetoric and/or draconian policies are counter productive, divisive, not Christian, and morally abhorrent. Stop feeding the base and start feeding the poor.</p>
Mrs. Kimberly N Ilgen	9/24/2019	Round Rock	<p>Dear Governor Greg Abbott,</p> <p>Good afternoon. Sir, we have an urgent need for assistance in the downtown area of Austin. The Austin City Council has passed an ordinance allowing the homeless population to camp out on the sidewalks in downtown Austin. There are hundreds of homeless people in tents all the the downtown area. It's shocking. And they don't keep to themselves, some are high on drugs and approach you in an aggressive manner. Last weekend, my daughter and I went to the Pecan Street Festival on 6th Street, a lovely tradition we always look forward to. Around 8th Street and Naches (where we parked our car in a paid lot), a homeless man came to us talking about having a gun in his pocket and using foul language about his body parts, and he was obviously high on drugs. My daughter just turned 15, his language was crude and vulgar and his demeanour felt threatening to us. He didn't touch us and there was no assault or anything that terrible but this was in broad daylight. And you should have seen the tents everywhere, more like "camps". Last week in downtown Austin a homeless man was breaking into cars when stopped by the Austin Police. It took 5 APD officers to arrest him, after he bit and scratched them, all 5 APD officers had to go to the hospital. It's just ruined beautiful downtown Austin, and it breaks my heart. Also, as the Capital of Texas, we host events for important people, dignitaries, politicians, international people, imagine what they must think when they see the mess that is currently downtown Austin. Please send some of your aides to look around the area, specifically Naches Street around 7th St. But not limited to those streets. Austin has homeless shelters with empty beds because the rule is you have to be sober to stay there. So the homeless population would rather live on the sidewalk in downtown Austin. The City Council can't agree on anything and will not fix this problem. Anyway, we have an urgent situation here. Thank you for doing such a great job as Governor, we couldn't ask for a better leader for our state. Kind regards, Kimberly Ilgen</p>
Mr. Allan A Ivey	10/3/2019	Cedar Park	<p>Thank you for being involved in our crowded homelessness under the freeway and around the freeways . This has got to stop . the next thing is going to be a homeless person wakes up in the middle of the night and walks out in front of a car! It's completely disgusting to see this on our freeway right of ways. If they want to be homeless give them a bus ticket and send them to California ! There's too many able-bodied persons standing on corners that just don't want to work .</p> <p>.Its A different thing with family situations. If they need a place to stay ,did they quit using T Don Hutto detention center for illegal aliens? Maybe Austin can pay to house homeless out there!</p> <p>Thank you governor for addressing this public safety issue .</p>
Ms. Kadiatu G Jabbie	7/19/2019	Austin	<p>Good Evening Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I am a current Texas State MSW student. Im reaching out to seek insight on the current repealing and appealing of panhandling, soliciting, and camping. I understand that steps are being taken to help the homeless population, but I want to better understand what other things are in development to help the homeless population. I understand that Governor Abbott expressed, "if Austin— or any other Texas city—permits camping on city streets it will be yet another local ordinance the State of Texas will override. At some point cities must start putting public safety & common sense first. There are far better solutions for the homeless & citizens". What solutions does Governor Abbott have in fixing the homeless problem in Austin?</p> <p>Thank you, Kadiatu Jabbie</p>

Mrs. Lisa Janssen	7/15/2019	austin	<p>I have a very BIG Issue wit Austin's homeless crisis .. have you seen Seattle is Dying? I Pray... that the next documentary isn't about Austin is Dying!!!</p> <p>I have empathy for the homeless, but there must be rules and restrictions for safety and well being of all Austin Residents ... I would suggest checking into Community First with Alan Graham and come up with real solutions and not allow it to be a free for all that will go on and attract more homeless people!!</p> <p>Best of all I think that the City Council is a little righteous in allowing Homeless people to be in any public spaces except in front of the city council building ... seems very self serving!!!</p> <p>My daughter works near University of Texas and has encountered several incidents with homeless people trying to get into her office... I fear for her safety... she pays taxes, works hard and yet , what about her rights to be able to feel safe and not step over homeless people or wonder if they will come into her office!!!</p> <p>She sees several incidents as they hassle students and people who walk down the sidewalk.... and it's getting worse!!</p> <p>Please consider All Austin Residents , who should fell safe, and take pride in our wonderful city ...</p> <p>Thank you for your time!!</p>
Mrs. Stephanie Jenkins	10/4/2019	Bastrop	<p>I totally support removing the homeless from Austin. It is a disgrace for them to be allowed to camp there as well as to taxpayers, business owners. My granddaughter currently lives at the Calloway House and has already been harassed for money. She gave a guy some and then he returned the next day screaming at her, I know you have some. I was born and raised in Austin, AHS class of 65 and UT, B.S., 68. I am embarrassed that political leaders have allowed such irresponsible activity. Remove homeless. Give resources to the ones who want to enter the resources program. For those who are too drug addled and or mentally ill, politicians are going to have to give tough love. I suggest restricting them to a less than desirable compound, where drugs can't get in. Mentally ill will have to take treatment or be jailed. This plan should cull the group.</p>
Mrs. Bobbie J Jobe	7/3/2019	Austin	<p>I am outraged at the council's homeless policy. Mr.Flannigan is my council representative. When I called his office I was referred to his website which was supposed to explain why this is necessary. It sounded like propaganda to me. I heard you say you would work to overturn this ruling. Will you be calling a special session or do we have to wait for the next legislative session in about year and a half. Something HAS to be done. Thank you.</p>
Mrs. Bobbie J Jobe	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for sending your letter to mayor Adler. I think he and the entire city council are too PC as well as being concerned about everyone but the so called normal citizens of Austin. The city looks like a mini San Francisco with homeless camping all over. I called the police about a homeless camp and was told they could not do anything due to the city council's new ruling. It is disgusting. I lived in Ft Worth for 30 years and always thought if I lived anyplace else in the state it would be Austin. Not anymore. Unfortunately we have a council who cares only for its citizens is when they want money for their liberal ideas.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Mrs. Alicia H Jones	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I plead with you to reverse the homeless camping ban that our City council so foolishly lifted. I grew up in NW Austin in the 70's, graduated UT in 1985 and have lived in the Great Hills neighborhood for the past 23 years.</p> <p>I am so deeply saddened by what I am seeing in this city. My oldest son lived in Los Angeles while at UCLA for grad school and is now in San Francisco....both cities never got a hold on their homeless situation, and it has ruined both cities. If we don't do something drastic, we are facing the same fate. I'm disgusted at the tent cities and accompanying trash that litters a once very nice part of Austin, up by the Arboretum. Braker, Great Hills Trail and Spicewood Springs underpasses are littered w trash, cardboard boxes, tents etc. A man was urinating in public the other day as I drove by. We pay very high taxes to live in this area of town and should not have to put up with this.</p>
Ms. Jan G jones	7/24/2019	Austin	<p>I have always voted for and supported you. Please do something for this city since our inept City Council can't seem to!!</p> <p>Please get the ban put back on so the homeless can't just camp anywhere. They are ruining the streets!!!! Adler has caused such a mess!! Please legislate something to ban this again. Disease etc. Don't want become next San Francisco!!!! Please Mr. Governor</p>

Mrs. Jennifer Jones	10/3/2019	Frisco	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Thank you for stepping up and demanding action to be taken by the Mayor of Austin regarding the homeless population. My oldest daughter is a freshmen at UT Austin. In these short few months she has been sexually harassed by a homeless man in west campus where many UT students live. She and her friends have bought pepper spray because shopping or dining across the street from UT is flat out dangerous. The homeless do walk on campus, and are a threat to our UT students.</p> <p>Please protect our UT students and help find a solution to the increasing problem for Austin residents. My brother lives 1.5 miles away from campus and has said the homeless problem has spiraled out of control that last few years.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jennifer Jones Frisco, TX resident</p>
Mr. Warren Jones	10/3/2019	AUSTIN	<p>Governor Abbott:</p> <p>Please act with respect and compassion when it comes to our homeless population in TX. When you threaten Austin leadership as you did yesterday with an ultimatum you accomplish nothing and frankly look a lot like our national "leadership". This does not work. Texas is better than this. Instead lets use our state resources to look at the whole problem statewide , you are after all the Governor of Texas, not Austin. Get out and learn about the issue. Go take the tour at the Community First Village. Go meet some of the folks on the street and inquire as to why or how they ended up there. We as Texan's need to work together to help our less fortunate population. We cannot "white wash" the problem by simply moving people around to fit our needs for tourism, etc. So lets use a little common sense in Texas and work together to get this right. We can do better with a holistic statewide approach rather than a top down singular approach.</p> <p>Regards, Andy Jones</p>
Mr. Larry D Juergens	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Thank you for taking action regarding the growing Austin homeless crisis. I appreciate what you are doing to address this issue and hold Austin's mayor accountable to his citizens and businesses.</p> <p>Austin has a thriving economy and it would be shameful to see short-sighted politics drive companies away.</p> <p>Keep up the great work!</p> <p>Larry</p>
Dr. Michael Karberg	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thanks you for your ultimatum to Austin mayor Adler and city council. The homeless situation is out of control. This isn't Republican or Democrat issue. Please work together for immediate, meaningful, and permanent change. Please be firm in your stance and bring the power of the state government to remedy this situation if needed.</p>
Mrs. Julia A Keenan	6/25/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott:</p> <p>Thank you^3 for you stand on the vagrancy issues in Austin, Texas. Having lived here for thirty-two years, we are grateful for your initiative to do what it right for the citizens of Austin, Texas. This place is rapidly becoming another San Francisco, Seattle, etc. We no longer take any of our out-of-town or out-of-country guests downtown to what once was the beauty, music, or restaurants here. We used to feel safe. Not so now. Driving our out-of-town or out-of-country guests to and from the airport has become an embarrassment for us. The "tent cities" along Ben White are deplorable! People from the eastern USA have become shocked of what this city has become in this regard.</p> <p>We have been made aware, time and time again, of neighbors leaving our city because they can no longer afford the property taxes here in Austin. We also thank you for your efforts to curtail this.</p> <p>Sincerely, Doug & Julie Keenan</p>
Mrs. Julia A Keenan	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>THANK YOU GOVERNOR ABBOTT FOR YOUR PROMISE TO ATTACK THIS HORRIBLE SITUATION WITH THE HOMELESS IN AUSTIN. IT HAS BEEN APPARENT FOR FAR TOO LONG THAT OUR MAYOR, WHO RESIDES IN A MULTI-MILLION DOWNTOWN 'CONDO,' HAS NO IDEA OF A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OTHER THAN TO SPEND MILLIONS OF TAXPAYERS' HARD-EARNED MONEY TO HOUSE THEM ALL OR JUST LET THEM BE. HE, AS WELL AS HIS LIBERAL CITY COUNCIL ARE DYSFUNCTIONAL AT BEST!!</p> <p>WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LEADERSHIP!!!!!!!</p> <p>Doug and Julie Keenan thirty-three year "native Texans" and Austinites</p>

Ms. Monica Kehoe	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Gov. Abbot:</p> <p>I support your efforts to correct the current permissive atmosphere in Austin related to allowing camping by the homeless which is resulting in ever enlarging shanty towns. I am a retired hospice RN and over the years I cared for dying homeless people so I do not lack compassion for those without homes. Mayor Adler's policies are misguided. They do not help the homeless. They do however make Austin less safe for citizens. Shanty towns breed crime and disease, Businesses suffer. I have been frightened a few times by aggressive panhandlers in the parking lot at Wheatsville. My baby granddaughter will not be safe on the streets here going to school. Please do whatever you can to end this insanity on the part of the city counsel. I have attended city council meetings on this and sent emails to the council members. I have found their responses to be condescending and completely out of touch with the reality of their responsibility to public health and safety. I have asked to volunteer to help raise funds for homeless housing and needed mental health and addiction services. No one on the council has responded. Thank You Monica kehoe South Austin.</p>
Mr. Kerry Kennington	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you SO much for calling out Austin Mayor Adler on his "homeless" policies that have turned this city into a huge trash heap. The streets and highways are littered in junk. I see crews out picking up trash everyday when I drive to work and it never gets better. It was never like this until the "progressive mayor" decided to coddle bums, alcoholics, and drug addicts that could care less about having a home if they can't live their chosen lifestyle. Please also do something about Adler allowing bums to beg on every street corner in this city. It is totally out of control. And the Austin Mayor and city council will do absolutely nothing about it. The solution to this problem is enforcement of laws. Not failed progressive liberal solutions that have given us San Francisco, Los Angeles, Portland , and Seattle.</p>
Ms. BETTY J KIRK	10/3/2019	AUSTIN	<p>Dear Mr. Abbott,</p> <p>I just turned on the news and heard that you have issued an ultimatum regarding the horrific homeless situation in Austin. God bless you, Mr. Abbott. I deeply appreciate your decision to expedite the cleaning up of the City of Austin. I have voted for you in the past and will continue to do so, not just because of this decision, but because you have demonstrated your sincere and genuine love for the people of Texas and you have intestinal fortitude to do what is difficult for the benefit of all citizens in Texas! Thank you for your commitment to high standards and for your great representation on the citizen's of Texas behalf in all regards. You are an amazing Governor and human being. I pray God will continue to bless your life and the lives of all those you love in ways only He can. You have class, dignity, integrity, valor and the determination to do what is best for Texas at all times. Again, I thank you for this particular decision.</p> <p>Blessings, Betty J. Kirk Austin, Texas</p>
Mr. Roy Kleinsasser	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>I voted in Austin's municipal election for the leaders I wanted to manage the city's affairs. I don't recall you being on the ballot. Consequently, instead of grandstanding over the homeless issue, why don't you focus on your job as governor and let Austin's leaders do their jobs?</p>
Ms. Kelli F Klima	10/3/2019	Georgetown	<p>Austin Texas Homeless - thank u for speaking up to our Mayor. Something needs to be done with the trashy areas where the homeless live in tents. I live in Georgetown but go into Austin on occasion. I have worked hard all my life. Retired 30 years with BP. I do not want homeless people, tents around me, I feel people can take the right road or the wrong road in life. There is no perfect family. But I feel most of the homeless are addicts. They have nice tents, nice bikes, cell phones and what really gets to me are the poor dogs that are kept tied up or imprisoned. I see the dogs all the time. Shots, flea and tick and worm meds. So very sad. But please stay on this and help clean up our Austin area. We are one of the fastest growing cities in the USA. I do not like seeing this. Move them to a bldg for homeless or an area where all their tents r in one spot. Looks trashy. I Also sent a note to our mayor to clean our main streets at night, 183 and 35 full of trash on the sides. Clean our streets. I was so embarrassed last week driving into Austin, all the trash and crap on the streets. Get the trucks out at night. Then we wake up to clean streets. Why can't we use prisoners to pick up trash. MAke them work and help clean our city up. Thank u for all u do. I just want to see our city beautified.</p>
Mr. Jason Kloc	9/10/2019	Austin	<p>We need to institute a program of this nature for the entire state of Texas. Why aren't we doing something like this? https://www.foxbusiness.com/economy/little-rock-homeless-pick-up-trash-payment-program</p>

Mr. Jason Knobloch	7/3/2019	Austin	<p>Hello Govenor,</p> <p>I am writing you because my neighborhood is desperate for help. The City of Austin has been attacking my neighborhood, in partnership with the Sunrise Church. They claim to be trying to help the homeless but what has actually happened is they have destroyed my neighborhood by bringing all the most dangerous street people into my neighborhood and then never done anything about it. Over the last 8 or so years, they have been able to place only about 50 people in housing, while hundreds of people have come to my neighborhood and settled here, under the highway on the South Austin Skid Row. Just recently the city council decided to open another "homeless" facility in our neighborhood. It seems like the Austin democrats are actively trying to run us all out of this part of town by continuing to bring the most dangerous people into the neighborhood. They claim there will be a homeless facility in every part of town, but I don't understand how they can justify putting the first one so close to the Sunrise Church. That church has been completely irresponsible with their outreach. There's constantly junkies hanging all around that church shooting up causing problems. It's been out of control for years and we really need help. With the city council repealing the camping law, I'm worried my house will soon be worthless. Myself and my neighbors have been documenting all of this for years and have some great pictures to show how bad it has been. Please contact me and let me know if there is anything you can do to help. The city government here is so incompetent I that I now feel they are a threat to the safety of the citizens of Austin.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Jake Knobloch (Jason)</p>
Mr. Andrew J Kocian	7/8/2019	San Marcos	<p>Hello Governor Abbot,</p> <p>As you are aware the city council of Austin, Texas has relaxed the camping laws in the city. The relaxation of the law has engendered a variety of issues in the, ranging from human waste, terrifying encounters with homeless, and general cleanliness.</p> <p>Please consider overturning the City's decision.</p>
Ms. Pamela Kooudelka	7/12/2019	Spring	<p>Your public opposition to the city's decision has swayed my support from a Democratic governor to your incumbency in 2020.</p> <p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I am very upset to hear that homeless people will be able to camp out on the streets of my state capitol. I think this is a terrible idea and will start us down the road of San Francisco, drugs on streets and people using the bathroom on the streets. I never, never, NEVER, thought I would see this in my state. Isn't there something you can do? This will only spread to all the cities! With all the signs around for jobs, why can't lodging be provided while people get back to work!</p> <p>I'm very concerned</p> <p>Pam Koudelka</p> <p>Spring, Tx</p>
Mr. Brian Kortmeyer	8/26/2019	Redlands, CA	<p>Dear Governor Greg Abbott:</p> <p>Hello. My name is Brian Kortmeyer from Redlands, CA. I have created a solution to the homeless situation in America. It involves using OPods created by James Law out of Hong Kong to house the homeless and ideas of recovery through Job Training, Mental Health Assistance, Substance abuse and Alcohol rehabilitation. This could all be done through crowdfunding. Each OPod for one person is \$15,000. However, this is temporary 3 to 6 month housing. The OPod would last for many years to come.</p> <p>OPods are stackable, moveable, and come fully furnished with the price. Shower, bed, shelf space, clothes space, refrigerator, sink, microwave, toilet, shower, and A/C Heater. To finish it off, the ends are closed with doors. I have created a video explaining all this in detail.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NGiSsyGbwnY</p> <p>It is free to watch and for all. I appreciate your time. If you have any questions, please contact me. Everything you need to know is here.</p> <p>Thank You,</p> <p>Brian Kortmeyer</p> <p>Redlands, CA</p>
Mr. Max W Kroschel	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Gov. Abbott</p> <p>My name is Max Kroschel and I grew up in Austin. I live, work, and raise my family here. I pay taxes and contribute to society. Please accept this email as my sincere gratitude and thanks for stepping in and taking action with the City of Austin's Mayor and Council members regarding the homeless and transient situation. Council Members and the Mayor do not listen to the very people who elected them and are out of control with their policies. As a 6th generation Texan, I ask you to do whatever it takes to clean up our city and prevent reckless policies from ruining my hometown. I would recommend a convoy of Tx Dot trucks for the trash and one or two Texas Rangers for anyone standing in the way!</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Max Kroschel</p>

Miss Andrea A Kunz	7/19/2019	Helotes	<p>Governor Abbott</p> <p>I am writing to ask why you are not taking action against the cities, including our own capital there in Austin, that are copying Los Angeles and San Francisco sanctuary city practices? Why are tent cities with homeless and illegals, filth, rodents, and disease spreading all over the increasingly BLUE cities in our state???? Why are you not following the example set by Gov DeSantis of Florida and BANNING all sanctuary cities from our great state???? I thought you had made a statement where you indicated these types of disgusting displays would be forbidden. You MUST do something about this -- San Antonio is rapidly turning into San Frantonio!!!! Illegals were dumped here from the Congo where there is now an outbreak of EBOLA!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Why have you not taken action sir????? What will it take???? If you do nothing this state will be lost to the radical left wing and we will be forever BLUE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>
Mrs. Janet L Landers	10/7/2019	McKinney	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Recently, I saw an article in the Dallas Morning News regarding your focus in Austin about the Mayor's homelessness tactics. I want to ask for your help here in McKinney with the same. Our homelessness has increased exponentially over the last year. As you may be aware, our Historic downtown Square has evolved into a jewel of a small town atmosphere, with vibrant merchant activity to offer visitors and residents a wonderful respite to experience..</p> <p>The homelessness activity has centered on the downtown library,. Just across the street in a small strip center is the Vintage Church, a Colorado Springs venture, whose main focus is serving the homeless. The pastor works at Borden in Dallas, and began recruiting them to come stay in their cars in his parking lot., which soon spilled across to the library. He was joined by a community action minister, Paul Ballesteros, from New York, who moved here four years ago and is focused on the same homelessness issue. His ministry is known as Emmanuel 214-491-8695. Together, they encouraged our Mayor to assist them with their ministry, and have begun to use our library to serve meals and want to establish a Resource Center for the Homeless there! Currently Mayor Fuller has organized a taskforce at the request of the Vineyard Church and "Emmanuel Labor", to address their needs, ignoring the protests and concerns of downtown merchants and residents alike, who are asking to put the resource center in an alternate location, away from the Square.</p> <p>On September 23, the Mayor and those on his taskforce agreed to meet with the citizens in a hastily organized town hall setting. Over 100 of us showed up at 7am, with a panel of our peers who addressed our questions to them. Many in the Historic Neighborhood Association had pressed for clarification, and wanted to send a message that we do NOT want this Library to be used in this way. I could recount many incidents involving homeless persons that we cited to them....but you know the problems... Drugs, theft, human waste, even a rumor of bedbugs. They pushed back at us as uncaring, NIMBY residents. And no further interaction, or reply to us since. One isolated incident that occurred since was a positive case of typhoid in a burger chain on Custer Road. We do not know who the employee was, but that an elementary school was put on notice....we can guess that an infected parent worked at the restaurant, and had children who went to the school. Think of this!! Typhoid !! Although it was not near the Square, it points to the complex health issues we have now, because of multiple reasons.</p> <p>When we saw how you addressed the Mayor in Austin, it gave us hope that you would help us address Mayor Fuller to find a more suitable location to establish a Resource Center for the Homeless. The Library is one block from downtown, and as the population increases, so will incidents that involve the mentally ill, drug users, who often will come to access the "help" a resource center might provide.</p> <p>We appreciate any letter, ordinance, any help you can provide us. We have to do something, else, our community will perish at the alter of good intentions sanctified by those driving forces that will take over.</p> <p>We need your help!</p> <p>Janet Landers</p>

Dr. Sara R Langer	6/25/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of Austin. I normally vote Democratic, but am appalled by the laws Austin's current city council and Mayor Adler are passing. I was very pleased to read your tweet yesterday indicating you will not tolerate homeless tent cities in Texas. Mayor Adler passed this law without even having details in place on where camping will and won't be legal. It is very irresponsible. I also live within a mile of where city council intends to open a new homeless shelter. This is a residential area with 3 schools nearby and city council did not even give one week's notice before putting this to a vote. I'm fairly sure it is not zoned correctly for a homeless shelter at this time either. If you can please schedule a special session to address the homeless laws Austin is irresponsibly passing I would very much appreciate it. I'm afraid if it waits until regular session, Austin may already be ruined by an influx of tent cities. Not sure what Mayor Adler is thinking. Please help!!!!</p> <p>Sincerely, Sara Langer</p>
Ms. shawn latorre	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Homelessness has become a health and safety issue for the great city of Austin, Texas. I have seen the encampments and resulting trash, including old needles near my home off Amherst near Balcones Little League fields. I have seen the homeless walking through our neighborhood near Davis Elementary School. We need to increase our support for tiny housing and mental health facilities for sure. But we simply must get a grip on how and where the homeless may locate. Anywhere they choose is not acceptable when the health and safety of neighborhoods and schools is at stake.</p>
Mr. Buenaventura Lavadia	8/20/2019	Salado	<p>Governor Abbott, I am concerned about the homelessness in our cities. State action needs to take place to prevent our cities from following the failures of California. Austin and San Antonio are an example of failures by the local government to address the homelessness. We Texans need to preserve our culture of not to mess Texas!</p>
Mr. Michael Lavallee	7/10/2019	Austin	<p>I'm writing to request help with the homeless issue in Austin. It feels like the homeless think are untouchable now. Someone in our apartment complex was attacked last night. Here's the email from our apartment complex: ----- July 9, 2019</p> <p>Dear Residents,</p> <p>As some of you may have noticed, there was visible police presence at our community last night. We were informed this morning that around 10:30pm, one of our residents approached a homeless male who seemed to be in distress and was attacked. The resident suffered cuts to both of his arms, one cut requiring stitches. We are very relieved that the resident is going to be ok, however, we need to make everyone aware of the situation that is occurring not only at Ethos, but throughout the city of Austin.</p> <p>A recent change in policy regarding homelessness in our city has created an abundance of homelessness activity in and around our community and the city as a whole. While the new policies do not affect private property, they have provided the homeless population with more freedoms within the city and may be misleading them to believe that these freedoms are granted anywhere they choose. We would like for each of you to reach out to our district city council office to voice concerns over these new policies, which are affecting the lifestyle we all appreciate and love about Ethos. Please see the link below to contact our District 2 representatives or call at 512.978.2102.</p> <p>http://www.austintexas.gov/department/district-2-council-office-contact-information</p> <p>While your Ethos team stays diligent on a daily basis to prevent unwelcome guests in our community, there may be instances when you see someone who may seem suspicious. It is important to remember security is the responsibility of you and of our local law enforcement agency. No action taken by the owner or management team can guarantee your safety. Taking an active role in your own security will help you to prevent avoidable issues. Below is a list of safety suggestions that are provided by law enforcement officials. We urge you to read and follow their suggestions.</p> <p>Get to know your neighbors and watch out for one another. If you see or hear something unusual or witness any illegal activity, be sure to notify your local law enforcement agency.</p> <p>Always lock your doors and windows, even when you are at home.</p> <p>It is a good idea to leave a light on when you're away to give criminals the appearance of someone being home. This may deter them from your home.</p> <p>We will be hosting a crime watch meeting on Wednesday, July 17, 2019 at 6:00pm in the main clubhouse. This is a great way to get to know your neighbors and discover ways to ensure your personal safety. Our district APD representative, Officer Gamboa, will be here to answer questions and provide insight to community awareness and safety. We highly encourage all residents to attend this informational meeting.</p> <p>Please be assured that our entire team will continue to take all necessary steps to ensure and maintain a peaceful community. As always, please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns regarding this incident.</p> <p>Thank you, Ethos Apartments</p>

Mr. Jim Lawhon	10/7/2019	Leander	I would like to applaud Gov. Abbott on his stance against homelessness in Austin....Although I'm a resident of Leander I drive a lot in the city of Austin and amazed at the trash cities I see below our roadways. I'm not an Austin resident but do pay taxes for the roadways and I'm ashamed of what the city of Austin has allowed....
Mrs. Julie R Ledbetter	7/24/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>We recently moved to the great state of Texas to be closer to family, for better schools and for a better lifestyle. While my husband is originally from Oklahoma and I from Southern California, we have lived all over: New York, LA, San Francisco, London and now Austin. We most recently lived in the San Francisco Bay Area which you know is shrouded in issues related to Homelessness. I was horrified to see the homeless ordinance pass in Austin decriminalizing the act of sitting, laying or camping in public places. This will be the death of our great City just as it has ruined San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle and Portland. A neighbor shared a video called "Seattle is Dying" which explains a program implemented in Rhode Island that gives a Medically Assisted Treatment program to homeless drug abusers. Just allowing the homeless population to exist in our public spaces while not giving them treatment options will not be effective in the fight against homelessness. Please help us keep Austin weird and a wonderful place to live and visit.</p> <p>Thank you, Julie Ledbetter Austin</p>
Mr. LEE LEFFINGWELL	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Governor,</p> <p>Thank you for addressing the City of Austin's homeless problem, and especially for authorizing State intervention to remedy the neglect on the part of City officials.</p>
Mrs. Alessia F Leoni	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbot, thank you so much for addressing the homeless crisis in Austin, please help us see through the reversal of the "No camping ban" since mayor Adler removed this ban our downtown area has become unbearable. I have lived downtown for 4 years and I now have a 6 month old baby and i feel unsafe walking him in core areas that used to be clean, safe and thriving areas. On two separate occasions I've been approached in an aggressive manor by homeless men who appear to be on drugs or mentally ill, leaving me terrified for the safety of my child. Aside from mothers like myself feeling unsafe, UT students feel unsafe and the overall appeal that our city used to have is quickly dwindling. Thank you again for addressing this issue and we beg you to help see through the necessary changes that are needed to restore Austin.</p>
Mr. Barry M Levine	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Instead of threatening Austin with illegal martial law by sending in your storm troopers why dont you ask the cities what they need to fight this problem. It's Republican policies that create the issue. Why don't you come up with a suggestion that helps. Many of those that are homeless are vets that risked their lives for this country and you want to criminalize them. All the Republicans do is criticize. Never do they come up with solutions. You're as ignorant as Trump and probably as corrupt.</p>
Mrs. Lourdes Linney	7/8/2019	Fresno, CA	<p>Dear Governor Abbott. My name is Lourdes Linney and I live in Fresno, California.</p> <p>Yesterday I read an article online about the Mayor of Austin who is considering allowing homeless encampments in the city, and your pronouncement about maybe overriding such ordinance.</p> <p>I applaud and thank you for giving law abiding citizens the hope that there are still people in government who care about their safety, their right to live in a decent place that they chose to reside in, and who defends that taxpayers' money are not misused by these Democrat-controlled cities and states.</p> <p>It was sad to read in the last interview to Maduro in Venezuela by Univision when he said that why accept criticism from the United States about Venezuelans eating from garbage cans when people in New York do the same.</p> <p>God bless you, your family and the office you represent.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Lourdes Linney</p>

Mrs. Jasmine Logan	7/17/2019	Beaumont	<p>Dear Governor Abbott:</p> <p>Each night, hundreds of thousands of Americans are homeless in the United States. They lay their heads down to rest in our public parks, on bus-stop benches, and in tent encampments. They sleep in their RVs and cars, and in weekly-rate motel rooms that are unsafe for adults and unfit for children. Every year, more than a million men, women, and children are homeless in the United States. This would be a moral outrage anywhere, but in the richest country in the history of the world, it is unconscionable.</p> <p>How is it possible that a crisis of this magnitude exists? It is unacceptable. The question for us is this:</p> <p>Will we sit back and continue to let it happen, or will we stand up together and demand better for our fellow Americans?</p> <p>I appeal to you, I urge you - Make ending homelessness a priority. In the vast array of societal issues you care about, please remember that people are literally dying on the streets every day because they do not have housing. Each day that we allow this to happen, we are failing our brothers and sisters. It is time to take real action toward restoring the lives and dignity of homeless people. In order to end homelessness, we need well-designed community systems that work together, and we must improve our homelessness prevention work. Long term solutions such as livable wages, affordable housing, and access to healthcare are all crucial elements in turning the tide on the homeless crisis.</p> <p>The time to act is now. Let's work together to make ending homelessness a priority today.</p> <p>Visit invisiblepeople.tv to hear raw, unedited and unfiltered stories from people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Jasmine Logan Beaumont, TX</p>
Linda Lombard	9/23/2019	Austin	<p>Please help us take Austin back to where we were before Mayor Adler and his council turned the city over to the homeless. They have turned Austin into a dump. What a disgrace when others come to our city and see trash, panhandlers, tent cities, etc everywhere. I hate the fact that my 13 year old granddaughter had to witness a man peeing on the side of the road while we were waiting at a light one day. Enough is enough!!</p>
Mr. Wade Lombard	10/7/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott -</p> <p>A quick thank you for taking the difficult step to ensure the city of Austin revisits their poor decisions regarding homelessness. To be clear, I regularly help feed the homeless as well as support organizations that give the chronically homeless a path toward health. However, I do not support Mayor Adler's decision to allow our homeless population to camp at will. This is turning our beautiful city into a mirror of Seattle or Sacramento; cities that have crossed the threshold of return; leaving small businesses feeling abandoned.</p> <p>I understand that there is a need to care for those that struggle to care for themselves. However, this shouldn't be done at the extraordinary sacrifice of those that work hard to support their community, their enterprises, and their families.</p> <p>I'm hoping our mayor shows wisdom and clarity between now and November 1st.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>J. Wade Lombard</p>

Ms. Janet G Long	10/7/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott -</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of my freshman at UT based (address is his), based on your tweet asking for further information about the homeless crisis in Austin. I recommend that if the state were to get involved you prioritize the area around UT, the most densely populated area in Texas, mostly by 18-22 year olds navigating living on their own for the first time. 80% of the student body at UT must live off campus due to lack of housing ON campus.</p> <p>In just the last few weeks we have learned of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A robbery by thread of a UT student, just off campus, on 10/5/19, no arrest- https://police.utexas.edu/crimefeed/robbery-threat - A bank robbery just off campus, 10/1/19 - no arrest - https://police.utexas.edu/crimefeed/bank-robbery - A homeless man threatening to "shoot the rich kids at UT" - 9/24/19 - arrested - https://www.kltv.com/2019/09/25/police-homeless-man-threatens-shoot-all-rich-kids-university-texas/ - A machete attack in West Campus - 9/23/19 - no arrest - https://police.utexas.edu/crimefeed/aggravated-assault <p>All suspects believe to be criminal transients, no arrests made. Add this to the daily harrassment that students face from some members of the homeless population (aggressive panhandling, verbal harrassment, physical threats), and the abject failure of the relaxing of the camping ordinance, and Austin has quite a mess. Not to mention the murder or Haruka Weiser a few years ago by a criminal transient and hardly ANYTHING has changed to make the students more secure. It's infuriating..</p> <p>Our students deserve far better than what this City Council has done, and parents are tired of being shuttled back and forth between UTPD, APD, and others to fix the situation. The areas surrounding campus are filthy, and it's ridiculous that camping would ever be allowed in such a dense and heavily traveled area of Austin.</p> <p>If the Mayor and City council won't step in and clean this up, ban camping around campus, and provide adequate police protection, I hope you will.</p>
Ms. Annie N Longley	7/19/2019	Austin	<p>Hello, my name is Annie and I am 24 years old. I was born in Austin and have lived here the majority of my life, mostly between campus and riverside. I live at 300 S Lamar now and I no longer feel safe walking down my street. Since these new ordinances have come in to effect the number of people sleeping on my block has increased three-fold. They are defecating on the streets and there is trash everywhere. I use to enjoy walking around my neighborhood, now I don't even walk to the other side of the street because I am terrified. The homeless population in Austin wasn't a non issue before, it was a real issue especially in some areas. In the last few weeks since this ordinance has come in to effect it is like they feel they can do whatever they want now (defecating on the street, throwing trash everywhere and harassing every female they see) and have multiplied noticeably. I no longer feel safe in this city, yes, harassment is still a crime but they police can't do anything about it unless they see it themselves and the response time is so slow the person could easily run away before an officer arrives. These ordinances (which were changed without any vote or real opportunity for the general population to voice their opinions) have done nothing to solve the problem, they have only made it much much worse and created an enormous issue for every younger female in the city.</p> <p>Please help us because the mayor and city council are not only the ones who caused this mess, they refuse to fix it.</p>
Mrs. Dixie Lynch	8/20/2019	AUSTIN	<p>Governor Abbott, please do something about the transients in Austin before we become another LA. I feel for the ones who are homeless but what the Austin city council has done is not the right way to go about it.</p>
Mrs. Deborah K Macias	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>I just want to applaud and support Governor Abbott for the recent action he took to call out the City of Austin mayor and city council on the homeless camping ordinance! So many of us in Austin are frustrated and disgusted by what we are witnessing on our streets and in our neighborhoods, but when we voice our frustration and opinion, we are answered by complicated double talk and senseless excuses. This city was beautiful, clean, and environmentally conscious up until the last few months. Now it is a wasteland of trash, stolen goods and unsavory behavior in public view due to the ordinance that allows homeless camping. All the money they are throwing at this so called homeless problem is not going to do one bit of good as long as public camping is allowed, it is just encouraging these folks to remain unemployed, unaccountable for their behavior, and unwilling to get help.</p> <p>Thank you, and we hope and pray that you can make a difference in regards to this ludicrous Austin ordinance.</p> <p>Sincerely, Deborah Macias</p>

Mrs. Maru L MacLennan	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Hello. My concern is the homeless in Austin. Thank you Governor Abbott for identifying our need for the homeless and calling attention to it with Mayor Adler. This law has put a terrible burden on law-abiding taxpayers here. We are at the mercy of non taxpayers(the homeless) living wherever in Austin. The garbage, human filth and concern for law and order are very real not only downtown but throughout the city. This law needs to be revoked. Our taxes are high for the services provided. I feel we deserve better in a capital city. Winter is coming when more homeless come for the temperate weather. Please continue to help us get some equilibrium!</p> <p>Thank you for your kind attention.</p> <p>Mary MacLennan</p>
Mr. John R MacRae	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Retired RN, ADN, CCRN,CPAN</p> <p>THANK YOU, Governor! After months of total failure of duty by the mayor and council of Austin, on the issue of derelicts occupying public ROW, greenbelts, parks and floodways in the City of Austin at the risk of disease, pollution, violence and intimidation of the public legitimately using those spaces, I see on the news that you intend to use State authority to protect the both citizens and the derelicts themselves. The propagandistic use of the term "homeless" prevents proper approaches to solutions. In the nautical sense, "derelict" refers to vessels that lack both power and steerage to navigate its way. This applies perfectly to those occupying public spaces: they have self-declared that they are helpless, and need our help : not handouts and 10 square feet of concrete.</p> <p>If they are mentally ill, pick them up and treat them. If they are physically ill, treat them so they can work. If they have been economically devastated, get them cleaned up, clothes and job interviews. If they just don't want to work and follow societal rules, give them public work or a map out of town.</p> <p>In any case, pick them up, evaluate and treat appropriately. Not a question of "freedom of speech", a question of public health and safety; for citizens AND derelicts as well.</p>
Mr. Hunter R Magness	10/7/2019	Austin	<p>Sir</p> <p>Here is a solution to the homeless problem in Austin.</p> <p>A roster with the names and addresses of everyone who is willing to take a homeless person into their homes should be hung and displayed in city hall and the governors mansion. Too, this roster could even be put in the Austin Chronicle, the Austin American Statesman and the Community Impact newspaper.</p> <p>There would be thousands of caring people who would be more than happy to help. Don't you think?</p> <p>Respectfully</p> <p>Hunter Magness</p> <p>Austin</p>
Ms. Margaret M Mahoney	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you Governor Abbott for letting Steve Adler and the Austin City Council know to get their acts together and clean up Austin's streets. I pay \$7,400 in property taxes and tired of seeing trash and littering all over the City I have lived in for 24 years.</p> <p>I would love to see Adler and the entire City Council get fired! I am scared to go out in my front yard these days due to the amount of homeless people we have living on the streets. I never have felt unsafe in my neighborhood but I do now. I do not go to my HEB anymore due to the loitering.</p> <p>Thank you so much for giving them a deadline or you will take care and clean up this mess. Let's keep our motto, "Don't Mess With Texas" and clean up our streets and be proud of Austin.</p> <p>Thank you again!!!</p> <p>Margy Mahoney</p> <p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>As a 30+ year resident of Austin, I am appalled at what the recent homeless camping ban is doing to our city. I live and work in Northwest Austin which is now becoming overrun with homeless people, their makeshift living situations and trash under and along 183, particularly near Braker Lane. I am urging you to put an end to allowing public camping at the state level. We cannot let Austin and the rest of Texas suffer the same fate as Los Angeles, San Francisco, and other liberal cities now unsuccessfully dealing with this by allowing the homeless to run rampant. I frequently travel to San Francisco for work and I can promise you we do not want Austin to deal with feces, urine, and needles in our streets, something I fear we are becoming very close to...not just Downtown, but in the suburbs too. Please help before the situation is truly out of control.</p>
Mr. Stephen Mallard	8/5/2019	Austin	

Mrs. Tracey Manbeck 9/24/2019 Austin

Dr Gov Abbott,

Back in June, you said you would step in if Austin allowed camping in the streets. Please, we need your help immediately! My family recently moved downtown from the suburbs, and in the few short months since we have been here and after the homeless policy was enacted, we have experienced a dramatic decline in the quality of our beautiful city. My daughter now is uncomfortable going on runs as she is regularly "cat called" by homeless who yell vulgar, disgusting words at her. My 14 year old rides his bike to school and has had to change his route because of the amounts of homeless we have encountered on the Shoal Creek Trail. I have watched people strip down naked and bathe in the water fountain of Republic Square. I hear tourists talking about how surprised they are and how we are quickly becoming the next San Fran or Portland. Because of the effect seen already to businesses, the city council is considering banning camping on major streets, but this does not fix the problem. We are now having problems with massive fires (2 in the past week that I know of) that are likely linked to the homeless situation. We have issues on UT Campus (a man attacked a student yesterday and another threatened kill "the rich kids"). As I have a 19 year old at UT, this concerns me deeply. The city council is inept at tackling the problem. They have spent 30 million with no results and are now planning to use 30 million more. They are wasting our money while ruining our city.

I feel for those who find themselves homeless. I also understand that they are on public property and therefore have a right to be there. However, being on the street does not give the homeless a right to harass and break the law. Many are clearly under the influence of a substance, the urinate and defecate in public, they strip naked, they litter. In one instance, it was clear a fire was likely started by them and the fire department, in the video, was clearly told to downplay the likely cause. If I were to do any of these as a tax paying citizen, I would be either be fined or arrested. Being homeless does not mean a person should get a "free pass" to break the law.

Please, for the sake of the safety and success of our city, step in and end this craziness before we reach the point of no return. (I have lived in Portland...trust me when I say that happens very quickly).

Thank you for our time.

Tracey Manbeck

Governor Abbott,

Please read this email I sent to Mayor Adler regarding safety issues at The University of Texas. I am the proud mother of one UT graduate and have a son currently attending The University of Texas. Safety is, of course, a huge concern for me and I would appreciate greatly any help you could provide to keep these students safe.

Thank you,

Tiffany Mann

I am the parent of a student at The University of Texas and want to share an upsetting experience my family had on Saturday, September 21st, at 5:30 p.m. While picking up my son from the GrandMarc apartments at 26th and Nueces (only 2 blocks from campus), a homeless man wearing bathing suit trunks, socks partially on his feet, and a hand towel on his head began throwing garbage out of the trash can at my car and at passersby. My husband got out and helped a female student who was too scared to let her dog go to the restroom before she rushed back up to her apartment. The man continued to throw trash at people heading toward the football game. One nicely dressed young man had a 30oz. big gulp cup (still half full) thrown at him so violently that the top came off and the drink splattered all over him.

I encourage you to visit this area and experience first-hand the fear and harassment the students have to deal with on a daily basis. This week, we received two disturbing reports of violence and threats of violence around campus. The knife attack at 23rd and San Antonio was very close to the incident we encountered Saturday and is so close to campus that most west campus residents walk by that area to and from school daily. In addition to the knife attack, a criminal transient made terroristic threats to "shoot all the rich kids at UT."

As a parent of a UT student I am writing to demand immediate action for the safety of all UT students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Immediate action should include:

- City Council and the Mayor creating an extended patrol zone 2 miles around campus with no camping permitted.
- An APD substation be placed on Guadalupe St. with more active and visible foot patrols throughout West Campus. This would allow a much more visible presence and quicker response times.
- An Ambassador program similar to what downtown Austin enjoys, as quickly as possible.
- Lighting be brought up to standard in West Campus immediately.
- Blue light call boxes must be put in place in West Campus along with Halo cameras.

The time is NOW for the Mayor and Austin City Council to address the issues of crime around West Campus. Our students deserve better.

The safety of our students is given so little consideration in the broader conversations happening in Austin. It's time for you to step up and act on behalf of the students. Please do not wait for another tragedy to occur!

Mrs. Tiffany T Mann 9/26/2019 Bulverde

Mrs. Angela N Martinez 10/3/2019

Hello Governor Abbott,

My husband and I have lived in the Central Southeast Austin since 2007 and I am an Austin native. We have seen the population of the homeless explode in our area in the last 12 years. We've seen so many incidences of mental illness, drug use, trash piling up on private land, parkland surrounding Mabel Davis Park and now the highway right of ways and medians. I have called the city many times on the massive amount trash everywhere and passed out homeless on sidewalks concerned for the welfare. In the past, we've also had homeless persons camp out at the park under the picnic pavilion for weeks, adjacent to the playground making it an unsafe environment for me to take my young children. As a proud Austin native, I no longer recognize the city that I grew up in and that represents the capital of the great State of Texas.

We just wanted to reach out and give you our whole-hearted support for the deadline that you gave Mayor Adler to deal with the huge crisis. We are beyond overwhelmed!

Best Regards,

Angela Martinez

Mr. Dustin Martinez 7/30/2019 Austin

Hi,

I am a concerned resident in Austin Texas. I have been here three years and have seen the cities homeless population get significantly worse. The city recently lifted the ordinance allowing people to camp anywhere in the city. What power do I have as a citizen to drive change, when city officials do not seem to care or listen? At what point can the state get involved? Any assistance or guidance on this would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Dustin

Mr. Joel Martinez 10/3/2019 Austin

(In the words of your buddy the prez) Hey guy A-butt, how dare you BULLY a great city like Austin! Before you threaten us you need to look in the mirror and see all the problems you and George Wussy Bush and Rick Oops Perry have done to this WHOLE state. The citizens of the great state of Texas give you until November 1, 2019 to clean up this state. If it wasn't for the oil below our feet, you would have no legacy. How many kids have died under your watch? How many mass shootings have occurred under your watch? How many environmental disasters have occurred under your watch? How much money have been wasted under your watch? How many trees have died under your watch? How many kids have no health care under your watch? How many kids are not being educated under your watch? How many elderly men and women have died under your watch? How many kids have been killed by guns under your watch? You are the guy. Shouldn't you be trying to at least TRY to fix some of these things? Also, if you haven't noticed, the month of September in Austin was the HOTTEST month ever recorded in history! Are you doing ANYTHING about global warming, or climate change? Did you notice that Imelda and Harvey dumped 40-60 inches of rain in a matter of days and flooded areas that have never flooded before? Did you see this or are you also blind? Homelessness in Austin is the LEAST of your worries. If you hate Austin SO SO MUCH, why don't you pick yourself up and LEAVE for, oh I don't know where, anywhere but TEXAS! Racists like you should go to Mississippi or Alabama, where you can blend in with the locals. You look great in a white sheet and pointed hat. How much of my money have you spent "protecting" the border with Mexico? And did your pea-resident get Mexico to PAY for the border wall like he promised? So many problems yet no solutions. That is your legacy. The Great State of Texas languishes near the bottom in so many different categories, but thank you for the oil! Nov 1, 2019. FIX EVERYTHING OR RESIGN! Adios Mofo!

Lynn Matthys 7/26/2019 Austin

Well Gov. it's countdown time until football season in Austin. I wonder what people from all over the country will think when they see the homeless mess Downtown. This is an emergency situation but our helpless, hapless mayor does not seem to be able to wrap his head around it. So it seems the state should step in to do something for our once beautiful capitol. I'm sure the state or the University of Texas Owns a parcel of land that would be suitable for a temporary homeless campus. Grade it off, thrown down some road base and move some of the homeless there. Or put some fema trailers on it. This is a situation that requires some action. The sooner the better.

Lynn Matthys 10/4/2019 Austin

Gov. Abbott thank you for standing up for the people of Austin in the homeless situation confronting our city. I don't know if legislation would be appropriate to prevent city governments from violating the rights of taxpayers to clean, safe streets. Something probably should be done to restrict the rights of mayors and city councils to make a mess like the one in Austin. Again Thank You!

Mrs. Jennifer Maxson	8/7/2019	Temple	<p>Good morning sir,</p> <p>I was not sure what issue this was because I believe it covers quite a few.</p> <p>Yesterday on the way home from the mall for my daughter sweet 16 we defy to stop by target.</p> <p>2300 W Ben White Blvd Austin, TX 78704 United States</p> <p>Traffic was bad and it has a Starbucks. It's not far from the mall.</p> <p>When we drove on the road that had Starbucks/target I was shocked n disgusted. At 4pm saw at least 40 camps/ areas of homeless people. A large one in the middle that was the size of my house! A large area with a wood table n lots of chairs and a barbecue. Dogs people and just filth everywhere. Saw some in bushes squatting probably going to the bathroom. This is not healthy or a way to combat homelessness. We have traveled other places in Austin n have been appalled by the amount of tents in once beautiful areas. We will end up like San Francisco and need pop scoopers. Theft went so high there. We moved from Sacramento California. Do you know for a couple summers rivers had to close cause of this. Ecoli! We had to move, we chose to move. A 500 homeless camp moved in to our neighborhood and our kids were harassed, theft of homes n cars doubled n the filth was everywhere. I know I don't have an answer just experience. This isn't gonna end well letting this continue to happen. It's a safety issue it's a health issue on us all.</p> <p>Thank you for listening to my concerns.</p> <p>Jennifer Maxson Temple Texas</p>
Mr. Michael Mayfield	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>I commend you on your letter today to Mayor Adler, who happens to be the worst mayor Austin has ever had and I sincerely hope you stand by your word to do something about the ridiculous situation he has put the taxpayers in with what he is doing to us about allowing the homeless to camp virtually anywhere. I have 2 rent houses in North Austin and he has made it virtually impossible for me to rent the homes with homeless camps right at the entrance to the subdivision. Please, Please help!!!!</p>
Mr. Dan McAtee	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Instead of threatening to send the troops to Austin to "solve" the homeless problem, how about doing something useful. These people are Texans and you are their Governor. They are not just from Austin, they are from all over. They need housing, jobs, sanitation, etc, not "send in the troops". Maybe use some of the State's money that you woud otherwise spend on this issue to provide what they need????</p>
Ms. Jill McAuliffe	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Re: Homelessness</p> <p>Texas Republicans really amaze me!</p> <p>You are "all about" smaller government and LOCAL CONTROL until it touches something that sparks your interest. THEN, all of a sudden, you take or threaten to take action at the State level. Remember the city that banned fracking? I sure do.</p> <p>Now you are threatening Austin - AGAIN. Of course, this is nothing new. I guess it just really burns you and the other Texas Republicans that our fair capitol is mostly Democrat in nature. But, be that as it may, Austin has (we have) as much right as any other city to control our city. We DO NOT NEED you nor your cohort Dan Patrick nor any other person - Democrat or Republican - in State government to tell US how we should run Austin.</p> <p>And, besides, you are well aware that Mayor Adler is working very diligently to reign in homelessness in our city. But, Texas becomes less affordable with each passing day (I know, I'm from Houston; I live in Austin and am moving to the Gulf Coast). But, the mayor persists in his attempts to get a handle on the issue.</p> <p>Why don't you step back (with your fist raising and threats) and let him do his job? Give him some time and space and see what he does. You never know, he might just come up with a solution that other Texas cities can use. (After all, Austin isn't the only city struggling with this problem. Are you bullying Houston, too?)</p> <p>I'm just sick of it. Leave Austin alone. When and if we want your input, we'll ask for it.</p> <p>Thanks a lot, but no thanks.</p>
Ms. Sandra S Mccutcheon	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>I'm appalled at Mayor Adler 's and the Austin city councils action on the homeless issues. Specifically- allowing them to camp anywhere they wish.</p> <p>I do appreciate any action Governor Abbott is considering to counteract the irresponsible actions take by the Mayor and City Council</p>

Ms. Rachael S McDaniel	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>Regarding homeless in Austin....</p> <p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I am an Austin native and typically liberal and even progressive but I thank you and wholeheartedly support your decision to intervene in Austin's homelessness issue.</p> <p>I live near the 290 and Lamar interchange and it's astonishing the increase in homeless people and their belongings in this area. I personally don't think it is just that the new ordinance has homeless coming "out of the shadows" as Adler claims. I think they are coming from other cities (word travels). Further, we are now witnessing public masturbation on the roadsides and have homeless wandering into residential neighborhoods. My daughter attends elementary school on Walsh Tarlton and we've had homeless sleeping on the school grounds and going door-to-door demanding beer and other handouts.</p> <p>Am I supposed to get out of my car and wait near a masturbator to identify him when police arrive? Good grief.</p> <p>Yes, we need to help the homeless. Austin's "solution" has completely backfired and many of us are feeling unsafe as a consequence.</p> <p>Please help!</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rachael McDaniel</p>
Ms. Katherine McDonald	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>I have heard about the possible executive order to reverse the camping ban that allows camping in public areas. I highly support this order as it has become a major mess in the Austin area. There are people camping all over town and it is an eyesore as well as a safety issue for the city. Thank you!</p>
Mrs. Pat McElveen	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>I have heard that you are considering doing something about a new situation in Austin that allows homeless people to camp almost anywhere they want to. I agree there is a need to do something about the homeless problem in Austin, but I don't think this is the answer. I urge you to do something about it. I think you have done a wonderful job as the governor of Texas.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>P. McElveen</p>
Mr. Guy S McKee	8/23/2019		<p>Watching our local news in San Antonio, I was appalled to see what Austin has approved for homeless encampments in our beautiful capitol city. Any idiot can look to LA or SF and see where this story leads. As a staunch conservative who continues to help keep Texas red, I am pleading with you to use your executive authority since legislature is gone to prohibit semi-permanent or permanent residence on public property. I am a 30 year vet from Texas returning home to a nightmare, you can resolve this problem. I truly believe that you are a true conservative and can fix this situation. Texas cannot become California.</p>
Kristi McKenzie	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Please do what you can meaningfully intervene in our homeless camping problem in Austin. I have attended several meetings held by Mayor Adler and my councilwoman, Alison Alter, and I have come away dismayed. Mayor Adler and 8 of the council members voted to allow panhandling, sitting/lying/sleeping, and camping in Austin. Mayor Adler has made it clear at these meetings that he will consider camping restrictions once everyone is housed, but admits not all homeless individuals are willing to go to shelters. This means he will move the goalposts and has no intentions of restricting camping. This is a public health concern as large camping areas increases the risk of fecal contamination and the spread of diseases, such as hepatitis A. Not to mention it is misleading. I also believe this is a water quality issue since we can no longer swim in our streams due to fecal contamination and e coli. Mayor Adler and the city council made this decision with the argument that prohibiting camping somehow interferes with homeless individuals' constitutional rights. I don't understand how having a tent, trashing a public area, defecating and having sex in public is a constitutional right. These activities are illegal in public (unless in a designated area for camping in a tent). I have been to these meetings and I have felt lectured to by an echo chamber and accused of being morally corrupt simply because I do not believe that the circumstance of homelessness puts you above the law. For example, if a college student is found drunk in public, they are ticketed and fined, which affects their ability to get a job. If a homeless person is publicly intoxicated, they get escorted to safety and given a meal and support services (because you don't want to impact THEIR ability to get a job). Your life circumstance does not determine criminality, your action does. It seems to me the city is lamenting the cost of living and the rise of homelessness while actively contributing to it with raising taxes. The city recently raised our property taxes to its maximum while lamenting on the affordability in Austin. It just doesn't make any sense to me.</p> <p>Please help us in Austin. Please come up with a solution that can't be struck down by some liberal judge who wants to protect the homeless "right" to sleep in a tent in groups and trash our city. Perhaps the answer is a commitment to regular clean ups? I'm sure you have lawyers working on it. We sure appreciate your help.</p> <p>Kristi Mckenzie</p>

Mr. Tito Mendoza	7/11/2019	Austin	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a lifelong Austin resident, I'm writing to you today asking for help with this homeless problem we have here. I love this city, but I am starting to think the city council has lost its mind allowing homeless people to sleep, do drugs, and steal where ever they want. There is a guy on 290 and Congress that has a BBQ pit, rocking chairs, rugs, and a dog house. If people think this kind of behavior is ok, then it's only going to get worse.</p> <p>Don't mess with Texas is not just a saying to keep our roads clean but also our cities.</p> <p>Please do something. It might not mean much, but as a Democrat, you have my vote next election if this gets fixed.</p> <p>Regards, Tito Mendoza</p>
Mr. Alex Mericas	10/4/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you Governor Abbott for your efforts to resolve the homeless issue in Austin. Allowing people to live in squalid conditions is not humane and should not be encouraged in any city. In addition to your efforts to clean up the homeless camps, I encourage you to use state resources to help with social services and housing for those affected.</p>
Mrs. Faye R Meyer	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Your assistance is needed to return the beautiful Capital of Texas to the example of cleanliness and beauty it was in the not so distant past.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The homeless camping ordinance is a failure and the Austin city council seems hell-bent on doing nothing. 2. The garbage along our roadways and at intersections (partly due to camping) is out of control. I have reported the mowing (lack thereof) and litter along 183 between Mopac and 620 to TxDOT but have seen no change. (I realize it has been extremely hot which is not ideal for any clean up). I have never seen our city look so downtrodden and filthy. <p>What can our state government do to address these concerns and return our town to its former glory?</p>
Mrs. Tracy Milano	8/20/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Gov. Abbot,</p> <p>As a native Austinite, I am appalled at the recent City of Austin action allowing the homeless population to camp on any public property. It is a hazard, and nuisance. We pay premium tax rates as property owners in Austin and also feel that it should be illegal for the city to raise our taxes and then use that money towards encouraging even more Gomes's people and illegal immigrants to move here. Please look into what can be done from your desk. California has made a mess of their state and city governments with similar policies and now the residents there are moving to Texas and bringing their same stupid ideas with them. Help!!</p>
Mrs. Sara K Minnis	7/17/2019	Austin	<p>I am very concerned about the new approach in Austin to allow homeless to camp throughout the city. This is a first step to our city going the way of Los Angeles and other sanctuary cities. Please help us stop Austin from becoming a totally trashed city with all the issues that brings. The approach to totally take care of all homeless is amplifying the problem. sara minnis</p>
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Mishler	10/3/2019	Georgetown	<p>Thank you, Governor Abbott, for addressing the homeless issue in Austin. It would be awful to let Austin become the cesspool that San Francisco, Los Angeles and other large cities have become. I applaud you for tackling the homeless issue before it gets totally out of control. The homeless need help for mental and drug addiction issues, but taking over our city streets should not be allowed.</p> <p>Thank you for the excellent job you do as Governor of Texas.</p>
Mr. Patrick Mitchell	9/5/2019	Daytona Beach, FL	<p>GET THE HOMELESS OFF THE STREET NOW! I SPENT 55 YEARS IN NY WITH LIBERALS AND THEIR DESTRUCTIVE WAYS! YOUR DOING A GREAT JOB GOV ABBOTT BUT AS I STATED ABOVE GET THE HOMELESS OFF THE STREET NOW! AUSTIN ON McNeil ave under the bridge!</p>
Mr. Manuel M Moncivais Jr.	7/15/2019	Leander	<p>I am writing on behalf of thousands of people who feel the same way about the current situation in Austin, TX. "DON'T MESS WITH TEXAS" IS A BIG JOKE THANKS TO THE AUSTIN MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL'S HOMELESS POLICIES! It is disappointing to drive in our city now and we do not even want to invite our friends and family from other parts of the country to see the eyesore of tents and garbage due to people who many have been enabled and do not want to be a contributor in our society. Los Angeles now has 60,000 homeless people camping and an estimated 12 millions rats! Dr Drew is predicting major diseases due to this situation.</p> <p>Austin is heading in this direction. Something needs to be done very soon! We need to have ZERO TOLERANCE for tents in the streets and panhandling plain and simple. Some of these panhandlers make more money than corporate executives and are not interested in working. PLEASE DO WHATEVER TO OVERRIDE THIS CITY NEW HOMELESS POLICY. More people will be coming in droves if we do not act now!</p>
Mr. Dennis Moninger	10/7/2019	Smithville	<p>Your comments about the homeless in Austin , prove you are a fake christian and pretty much a ass.</p>

Mr. Marvin H Monken	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER TO THE CITY OF AUSTIN ABOUT HOMELESSNESS!</p> <p>The actions by the Austin City Council have only encouraged more homelessness!</p> <p>Someone needed to force the City to take real action to control them. The homeless are human vermin.</p> <p>Like vermin they need to be controlled by removing their food supply and places where they live.</p> <p>I have seen this problem growing for many years. The U.S. Supreme Court abolished vagrancy laws. Then they ruled, if you couldn't cure a person with mental illness, you couldn't keep them in a mental hospital. Also, they ruled against panhandling laws.</p> <p>Then, the Austin City Council removed the laws that prevented the rest of their anti-social behaviour. Now, they have multiplied, spreading garbage and filth all over our city. Also, you see evidence of stolen grocery baskets (average cost \$100) and bicycles in their camps.</p> <p>The Capitol of Texas should not be turned into a garbage pile. Someone needs to put the welfare of the City's honest, hard-working citizens before the aid and comfort of those who choose not to work.</p> <p>I am looking forward to November 1st. You have my support to do whatever is necessary to rid us of these vermin.</p> <p>THANK YOU AGAIN!</p>
Miss Crystal Montgomery	7/12/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott:</p> <p>Each night, hundreds of thousands of Americans are homeless in the United States. They lay their heads down to rest in our public parks, on bus-stop benches, and in tent encampments. They sleep in their RVs and cars, and in weekly-rate motel rooms that are unsafe for adults and unfit for children. Every year, more than a million men, women, and children are homeless in the United States. This would be a moral outrage anywhere, but in the richest country in the history of the world, it is unconscionable.</p> <p>How is it possible that a crisis of this magnitude exists? It is unacceptable. The question for us is this:</p> <p>Will we sit back and continue to let it happen, or will we stand up together and demand better for our fellow Americans?</p> <p>I appeal to you, I urge you - Make ending homelessness a priority. In the vast array of societal issues you care about, please remember that people are literally dying on the streets every day because they do not have housing. Each day that we allow this to happen, we are failing our brothers and sisters. It is time to take real action toward restoring the lives and dignity of homeless people. In order to end homelessness, we need well-designed community systems that work together, and we must improve our homelessness prevention work. Long term solutions such as livable wages, affordable housing, and access to healthcare are all crucial elements in turning the tide on the homeless crisis.</p> <p>The time to act is now. Let's work together to make ending homelessness a priority today.</p> <p>Visit invisiblepeople.tv to hear raw, unedited and unfiltered stories from people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Crystal Montgomery</p> <p>Austin, TX</p>
Mr. Aaron Moore	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Hi I am a resident of Austin and I saw your letter today. Please enforce changes in Austin regarding homelessness. I live close to Ben White and since the loosening of the rules, the streets are littered with trash, I've seen bent spoons and needles in the streets during my morning runs, and my fiancé has been chased while running by several people. I'm a lifelong Democrat but do not participate in identity politics. I do not agree with anything Mayor Adler has done regarding this issue. Please let me know what I can do to help</p>
Ms. Meagan Moore	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Hi Governor Abbot,</p> <p>I read your open letter to Mayor Abbot and I am glad to see you care so deeply about people experiencing homelessness. I thought it was really odd that you didn't mention that the TDHCA as one of the agencies that can interfere to help out those without stable housing in Austin and around the great state of Texas. It seems to me that housing people on the streets instead of asking them to move to another street would be more effective. If you are still unsure if people should live in housing paid for by the government, I would like to remind you that Texas taxpayers pay for your mansion and complete salary.</p>
Thomas R Morales	7/10/2019	Austin	<p>My comments are to address the homelessness in Austin, TX recently Mayor Adler has allowed to illegal encampments among the alleys and under bridges of Austin but has decided to not allow any of it near the city hall. I believe that encampments created by the homeless should not be allowed since it caused a danger, increase in crime and drug activity. This is a safety matter and the mayor does not seem to care for the people.</p>

Mrs. Mona Morgan	7/25/2019	Austin	<p>Homeless Camping and Decriminalization of Austin's Homeless Population!</p> <p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I listened to Major Adler on 7Austin Fox News from the Petition I signed sent by Matt Mackowiak. The Major was Extremely Cheeky in saying:</p> <p>"there is No camping on Congress Avenue"! That was a "notice to you"! As you did say "There will be no Camping on Congress Avenue"! Therefore,</p> <p>Major Adler is stating to you and the entire City of Austin that..."You", Governor Abbott I have told my people in place, Mayor Adler...do not allow Camping on Congress Avenue", as not to have you Involved.</p> <p>You must understand more about the Values of Texas....we are not California or Washington State...we are Texas and we in Texas expect You to do something. In the City of Dallas, Asylum seekers from The Rio Grand Valley are at the Greyhound Bus Station and their Tickets are paid for to go to whatever State they know a person and they Want To Work. These Street People Cannot Work in Austin and when Adler passed Open Camping on our Streets so that I, We could take them into our Homes...I am sure more and more have Come because the Police cannot Police them. The rest of the Country is Laughing at Texas..especially the Dems...Please Do Something! Give them a Bus Pass to North Dakota or South Dakota or Washington DC! I rent in Dallas (Beautiful City) and we Own in Austin Downtown...We are not Safe! I as a Woman cannot say to a Huge Man...Please leave my Private Space. Governor..."you saw this coming and so did the people of Austin"! Thank You for your Time, Mona&Jim Morgan</p> <p>The City of Austin!</p> <p>I have sent many many emails to the Governor's Office due to the passing of the Austin City Council Ordinance Issues on Homelessness. As you are very much aware,...the Democratic Major of Austin is not backing down, nor does he have housing for the Homeless, but to purchase a property near my Grandsons School, One Block away from The Athena Montessori School on Ben White.</p> <p>I have never lived (35 years in and out of Houston) in a place where a Major can completely destroy a City. I am extremely appreciative to Governor Abbott for stopping the "sanctuary city" attempts in Austin.</p> <p>Now, we face another issue. The Major stops the hands of the APD, says...it does not work! Why does it not work? I believe there is not a plan for these humans in the City, nor will there ever be a plan until a Profitable Individual steps up and Puts His Money in the City. I listened to the Governor about the situation in San Antonio. Where is this person in Austin? This person who takes his Money and Builds a place for these Humans? Michael Dell, Silicon Labs Owner, Matt McConaughey, and I am sure there are many more. Our Property Taxes will be the highest in the entire State that Adler has passed the Budget Increase. Where has all this \$ gone in the past? The Austin Homeless Shelter touts itself as "we will give you a hair cut and a shave"...Governor Abbott...what do you have to say? What is wrong with Austin? This extremely "Liberal Place" is tearing itself apart. None of the groups who have come before the Major have succeeded to end these ordinances and Adler will "not allow camping on Congress Ave" because the Govenor said " I will not allow camping on Congress Ave"! Governor Abbott.....Major Adler does not like You! I respect you with all my Heart! Taxes, taxes, taxes...why? Major Adler won't talk or reason. Will you please respond, or meet with me and my Friends who live in Downtown Austin?</p> <p>Thank you so much, Mona Morgan & Jim Morgan (Strong Republican Supporters.)</p>
Ms. mary mundy	6/24/2019	Austin	<p>I'm sure you know the city council of Austin has voted to rescind laws controlling our growing homeless population here. Soon they will be able to camp almost where ever they want anywhere in the city and panhandle whenever they want with no repercussions from the police. This liberal City Council must be stopped before our city turns into another San Francisco or Seattle with people camped out all over downtown and everywhere else spreading diseases and filth. Please help us!</p>
Ms. mary mundy	8/27/2019	Austin	<p>Gov. Abbott, We are soon entering into a public health crisis in Austin if the City Of Austin does not do something about the filthy conditions the vagrants are living in now. Because of the abundance of homeless California is now experiencing many cases of the medieval disease called typhus. Also they are seeing cases of tuberculosis and trench fever (carried by lice). People also are being impacted by shigella bacteria carried through feces and many cases of hepatitis A. Many of these cases are spreading into the general populace. How can the homeless be encouraged to camp all of our city by the Mayor and City Council without sanitation and them not address this possible health crisis we could soon experience? We are desperate for help from the state government. Our extremely liberal city council and mayor are doing absolutely nothing! Thanks</p>
Mr. Richard R Munoz	10/7/2019		<p>Thank You Governor Abbott for putting your foot down on this homeless issue, our beautiful state capital area and Austin is turning into a awful eye sore with these people who are not Texans but came here because of Keep Austin Weird and the mayor making it even more possible for these folks to congregate in Austin.</p>

Mr. Justin Murders	10/7/2019	Austin	<p>Hello Governor,</p> <p>My name is Justin Murders, and I live in Austin, Texas. I am not usually one to reach out to Politicians, but since you're my Governor, and since we are in great need, I am writing you.</p> <p>I understand you dislike the policy set forth by Mayor Adler, as I have seen your videos and comments on the news. I too, have issues with this Homeless ordinance, as I am a single father of a three year old boy. We love to explore, but lately have been unable to frequent our favorite locations due to the syringes, abusive language, threats of violence, and the overall discomfort of having to "watch your six" at all times when around the Transients. I understand not all homeless people are bad, that not all of them are on the streets by their own choosing, but that doesn't change the situation.</p> <p>Now, to my point... I am a Land Surveyor by trade, and I have access to the parts of Austin (and surrounding communities) that are inaccessible to most every day citizens. I am quite confident, that on a day to day, month to month, or year to year basis, myself and people like me have the most up close and accurate evidence of what this homeless ordinance has done. There is not an area in Austin that remains untouched by this plague of hazardous needles, fecal matter, fear of violence, or abundant trash scattered about. There are places in uninhabited areas of Austin that have entire makeshift structures, housing many many homeless individuals, and it DESTROYS the land they choose for their camps. Austin may be a "blueberry in the middle of tomato soup", but this is still Texas by God, and this is unacceptable. I don't want to have to wear boots everywhere for fear of stepping on a needle, I don't want to have to scan the ground like a crazy person when I'm walking places with my son, I just want normal Austin back. I am confident that you know how to tackle adversity, and I hope that you can help us solve this problem, before a city in your (our) state, becomes the next San Fran or Portland.</p> <p>My best to you and your wife, Justin Murders</p>
Ms. Barbara Murphy	10/2/2019		<p>Governor Abbott: Thank you SO much for your intervention in the Austin homeless problem. Our beautiful city and the State Capitol is being RUINED due to the irresponsible actions of Mayor Adler and the Austin City Council. I appreciate the November 1 deadline you have set for Austin's so-called leaders to remedy this horrendous situation that affects every citizen.</p>
Mrs. Ella J Murphy	9/5/2019	Austin	<p>I AM AGAINST CAMPING/TENTING IN PUBLIC PLACES. AREAS WHERE THE HOMELESS HAVE CAMPED HAS BEEN TRASHED. THEY ARE UNGRATEFUL AND LEAVE TRASH WHEREVER THEY BEG/CAMP/TENT. THIS IS NOT WHAT AUSTIN WANTS THEIR IMAGE TO BE. IT IS A DISGUSTING SITE FOR US WHO LIVE IN THIS GREAT, BEAUTIFUL CITY. FOR VISITORS PASSING THROUGH OR HERE TO TOURIST OUR GREAT CITY, IS LESS THAN DESIREABLE. I WANT THAT ORDER REVERSED AND RETURN OUR CITY THAT WE CAN BE PROUD OF. THANK YOU FOR LISTENING.</p>
Ms. Shana A Nardiello- Clark	9/11/2019	Austin	<p>City of Austin,</p> <p>I am a tax-paying citizen that lives in a very nice neighborhood and pays taxes on a house valued at almost 1M. Now I tell you this not because I want to emphasize how fortunate we are but that we pay quite a lot of taxes. Over the last year or so the homeless situation surrounding our neighborhood has gotten out of control!!! Especially, since the Mayor has authorized homeless camps on city streets. I find this absolutely appalling that a city official would carelessly and lazily make a decision to not only avoid taking responsibility in this situation but make it worse. We have 2 elementary schools and a middle school that is within a 2-mile radius. Canyon Vista Middle school is about 4-5 blocks down the street from this situation and over the last 6 months I have had to call several times about sketchy homeless men walking down to the areas surrounding the Middle School and hanging out around the time school lets out. Yesterday I called 311 about one of these men and this morning on our neighborhood page I saw a message that a man was pleasuring himself in the woods by Canyon Vista as a 12 year old child passed by. He made interaction with her and said, "Hi beautiful". I am beyond outraged at this!!! This needs to be taken care of immediately!! It is entirely inappropriate to allow a homeless camp this close to schools and residential areas, especially where so many children live. I will be contacting the governor and other officials repeatedly until someone does their job and takes care of this! They need a place to live other than the street with medical and/or mental health care. They do not need to live on the street next to our children's schools and homes. Shame on this city!!!!</p> <p>NOT HAPPY</p>

Miss Madeline Nassif	9/16/2019	Austin	<p>I am writing the Governor to ask him to step in with the current issues with homelessness in Austin. Although I do not believe in criminalizing homelessness and understand many people who are homeless have little control over their situations--suffering with mental illness and addiction--as a young woman who lives near downtown Austin, I feel unsafe walking around. I walk to work, and twice now I have had to step around a man who is homeless and sleeping in the middle of the sidewalk. Behind my apartment, a man who is homeless sleeps every night. Walking down the street in the middle of the day, I walked by two homeless men sitting in the middle of the sidewalk. One had a knife in his lap and both were making rude comments. I will not pretend to understand all of the politics and laws that surround this problem, but I know I often feel unsafe in the area and that since Austin made it legal for people to camp/sit/do whatever whenever, I and several of my friends have noticed more situations where we feel unsafe. As well, sleeping in the middle of the sidewalk is unsafe for the people doing it. Please take action, since the city of Austin is not.</p>
Mr. Quentin A Neill	8/6/2019	Austin	<p>Hi Mr. Abbott, Please consider doing something, either executive action or some kind of public relations, to illuminate and curtail the menacing homeless problem developing in Austin. I have some measure of personal knowledge of several of our homeless (by direct contact at the Cathedral of St Mary, on my commute, and at my former elementary school St Austin's) and am convinced it is not about money but about free will. If required some would clean themselves up and stop misbehaving to enjoy a steady supply of meals and a place to stay. And those that wouldn't get clean usually need drug, mental, or medical help. Some however would either leave or just need to face prosecution. My point is that our Austin City Council is not willing to entertain sober, mature, common sense programs and is skirting close to damaging the health and integrity of their own civil authority. As a member of a rather large underrepresented group of voter's I am appealing to you and your office for some kind of external action before it is too late.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, And God Bless Texas Quentin Neill</p>
Mrs. Jennifer Nelson	7/18/2019	Cedar Park	<p>Please overturn Austin's recent law that decriminalizes homelessness. In the past 2 weeks, I've seen homeless camps pop up along highway 183. Austin is slowly but surely turning into San Francisco; by that I mean "downhill." What is happening to my conservative state??</p>

Ms. Nanci J Nicholas	7/25/2019	Austin	<p>I humbly ask that this message reach the desk of Governor Abbott. (not filed away)</p> <p>I am writing about the recent local Austin elected officials decision to allow camping of the homeless population on public property. Living in Austin for the past 35 years, I have watched a once vibrant, creative, and safe community change. This latest hair brained idea is baffling.</p> <p>Where is the concern for human waste products in the streets and under passes, spread of disease in unsanitary environments, adversely affected, local businesses, needles lying in the streets that carry potential deadly illness ? My office recently issued a warning not to pick up needles on the ground and let our trained staff collect and dispose of them. Not that long ago we would not see this as a concern.</p> <p>I am a compassionate, solution oriented person. I am very willing to invest my tax dollars into re-habilitation of persons worthy of care and down on their luck, if they just need that foothold to recover. I am in favor of transitional housing, drug re-habilitation centers and the like. However, the growing number of strung out drug addicts in our streets is disturbing. Further, this permissive allowance is only going to exacerbate the problem. It is not helping the addicted person take additional responsibility. I think I read the current number of homeless population is around 2,000. With this policy in place it will grow as word spreads in the country of Austin's liberal mindset. I am considering moving as are many of my close friends. Now in my early 60's I have to protect the assets I have accrued over a life time. I can't sit back and watch my hard earned equity go down the liberal toilet.</p> <p>Please don't miss this point: These latest rules simply pushed the homeless out of our parks and greenbelts (where they were more hidden) into the streets where they are more visible. Check the data. The encampments were continually broken up by law enforcement and often resulted in arrests for drug possession and drug dealing. Easier to pass drugs around in seclusion. Now the police can't easily search their tents as they may be invading their "home" . Sweet deal for a drug dealer or user right? Not so much for the resident that lives in the vicinity of any overpass in Austin. They probably liked it better when they were in the woods. Seems like the Mayor of Austin created more problems than were solved.</p> <p>Demographically, as a voter I am a "recovering" Democrat turned Independent with strong leanings towards the Republican Party. I voted straight Republican ticket last election. In Austin that is something you keep hidden in the work place and with certain friends if you want to keep them.</p> <p>I think we can be kind and Christian in our actions without creating dependencies. Scripture tells us in 2 Thessalonians Chapter 3:10 " for even when we were with you we gave you this rule: if a man will not work, he shall not eat." Put people to work, give them incentive to make their own way. Stop the "victims" mindset that I plaques this country. Government can't fix stupid or lawlessness without enforcing rules. We all have a part to play in this society. The lessor of those do have rights but not more than those that have resources. Christ teaches us to care for the poor etc .. he did not say enable them to stay stuck or sick. As hard working citizens we have right to expect our officials to protect our home property values and quality of life.</p> <p>I don't pretend to know what the answers. Governor Abbott you have my prayers to receive Godly wisdom and insight in this issue. Don't let your heart be hardened yet, please also be firm in your resolve. This is the kind of leadership we need in this country. Next</p>
Mr. Jack C O'Donnell	7/12/2019	Austin	<p>The new Austin camping ordinance is terrible public policy and will turn Austin into another San Francisco, LA, and Seattle. Just learned today that it is now ok to camp in front of my house on the sidewalk where little kids ride their bikes and walk. I am guessing that this will be a huge problem before the Texas leg meets again in 2021. Please keep an eye on this and do something about it if you can.</p>
Mr. Art Olbert	8/2/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you.</p> <p>Austin City Council's actions on homelessness are ruining our state capital. Texas state government must stop them. Austin has relaxed the restrictions on vagrancy, begging, and anti-social behaviors associated with some people experiencing homelessness. Austin did that before taking the hard and expensive steps necessary to address the needs of the larger population of all people experiencing homelessness. Austin City Council is pandering to feel-good liberal emotions at the expense of our capital's reputation.</p> <p>Austin City Council is explicitly following the lead of Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle. Those cities' governments, and Austin's, do not address the causes of homelessness. Instead they make themselves feel compassionate because they've eliminated controls on anti-social behavior.</p> <p>The results in Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, and Seattle are obvious: blighted neighborhoods, frightened residents, increased health risks, and alienated visitors. However, those cities are not their state's capitals. Austin is our capital city. Texas state government must act to protect our capital from Austin's politics.</p>

Mr. Tony Olivarez	10/3/2019	Round Rock	<p>Thank you sir for taking action on the homeless matter and we need to stop the panhandling in our intersection on our major streets like Palmer and Dessau very dangerous and a safety hazard leaving trash everywhere when they leave till the next day and they start again , they can't do that in Williamson county , we need to pass a law for panhandling in Travis county like Williamson county , lets clean up this mess before it looks like Los Angeles California</p> <p>Sincerely Tony Olivarez East Texas</p>
Mrs. Erica Ortiz	7/3/2019	Cedar Park	<p>Hello, I am a resident of the Austin area, and like many others, I have tremendous concerns regarding the new ordinances allowing people experiencing homelessness to camp anywhere in the city. I appreciate Governor Abbott's message that he would step in and prevent this if needed. How and when can we get further assistance from the governor? It seems that an overwhelming majority of the residents of the Austin metro area are not in favor of this decision that was made by the city council. I appreciate any assistance that could be provided in this manner.</p> <p>Thank you Erica Ortiz</p>
Mrs. Erica Ortiz	8/26/2019	Cedar Park	<p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>PLEASE do something to help us in the Austin area after the change in the homeless ordinances. Although my husband and I reside in Cedar Park, we are just outside of the Austin city limits, and almost all of our work and leisure activities are conducted in Austin. The situation here is rapidly worsening, and the mayor and city council are turning a deaf ear to the concerns the community is expressing. They are ignoring a petition that has well over 25,000 signatures, and a recent "town hall" forum regarding this issue consisted of over 800 people expressing concerns and asking for re-consideration. They still do not seem to care and seem to be set on letting the situation escalate. Each day that goes by, there is an increase in both the number and size of homeless encampments throughout all quadrants of the city. It is virtually impossible to avoid them. As these encampments grow, safety declines and litter and waste increase. Most of the camps now consist of furniture (I have personally seen recliners, mattresses, tables, and BBQ pits), numerous shopping carts, and large piles of random belongings. How can this not be considered litter?? Many of these are right next to a major highway (practically every underpass of 183 and I-35 have large camps) and pose a major hazard when/if any of these items end up in the road. In addition, many camps also now consist of home-made structures made out of wooden pallets, cardboard boxes, and other various materials. These certainly must pose a danger to the people residing in them. Driving past any of these areas, it is common to see sex acts, drug use, urination, or defecation happen in clear sight. Panhandlers have become more blatantly aggressive and are often posing a danger in high traffic roads. Many of these camps have also been reported to be infested with rats, which obviously is an alarming public health issue. In the last few weeks, there have been numerous reports of attacks committed both by and against homeless people. Local businesses are being affected by homeless people both vandalizing their property, and losing customers due to people camping outside of them. The local government is blatantly ignoring public health and safety with these ordinances. It seems that the homeless population is being allowed to behave in illegal and dangerous ways (public sex/drug use/urination/defecation/littering/aggressive and threatening behaviors), and the police seem to be unable to do their job because of the ordinances. If someone is homeless, they seem to be given a free pass to behave however they please and are not expected to abide by the same laws the rest of us are. PLEASE, do something. The situation is becoming more dire each day. Please help to save the capital city, because the local government refuses to do so.</p>

Mrs. Erica Ortiz	10/2/2019	Cedar Park	<p>I have reached out several times already without a response. I'm expecting that this time you will respond.</p> <p>I live just outside of Austin (just a couple of miles outside of the city limits). My husband and I spend most of our time in Austin for work, shopping, and leisure activities. Due to the change in the homeless ordinances and the every-growing decline in public order, health, and safety, I am reaching out to your office yet again.</p> <p>When the ordinances were changed, you immediately spoke out and said that the state of Texas would take action and this would not be allowed. So, we are waiting anxiously for your help. I know that you have been in Austin since the change in ordinances. I know that you must have seen first hand what is happening everywhere. There are tent cities under virtually every underpass. There is litter everywhere. There are drug addicted and mentally ill people that have completely taken over many public spaces. They are being allowed to engage in unlawful behaviors such as littering, urinating, defecating, masturbating, public sex acts, and open drug use without consequence. They have become much more brazen in their panhandling and aggressive confrontations. I know that you must be aware of how the mayor and city council are completely disregarding the outcry from the public, business owners, University of Texas, and the police department. So where are you? Why have you gone silent? We can't wait until the 2021 legislative session, or until the next city council or mayoral elections for this to be addressed. The hole that the city leadership has dug will be too deep to climb out of by then.</p> <p>The capital city of the state that you were elected to protect needs you. Please don't ignore what's happening in Austin-the city government is already doing that.</p> <p>I look forward to a response outlining your plan to address this urgent matter.</p>
Mrs. Erica Ortiz	10/2/2019	Cedar Park	<p>In case you haven't seen this-residents of Austin are having to put their health and safety at risk to clean up the health and environmental hazards left by homeless camps due to the inaction of the city government to adequately address a rapidly worsening crisis. Your help can't come soon enough.</p>
Ms. Crystal L Ouzillou	10/2/2019	AUSTIN	<p>https://www.kxan.com/news/sick-of-seeing-trash-near-homeless-camps-two-neighbors-take-matters-into-their-own-hands/</p> <p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>THANK YOU FOR STEPPING IN IN THE AUSTIN HOMELESSNESS CRISIS!!!! As an Austin resident, I've been incredibly upset to watch what has been transpiring in our beautiful city. Frankly, it is criminal what they have been doing. I understand that Mayor Adler has interest in 71 properties around town. I'd like his conflict of interest in this to be investigated!!! He's trying to change our city's zoning laws to do away with single family zoning. Who would benefit from that? He would! His wife would! I want an investigation into the Austin mayor.</p> <p>Thank you, thank you, thank you Governor Abbott. I think you are doing a wonderful job and am a huge fan of yours. You just made me a lifelong Texas Republican. I've been an independent up until now. But, it's clear that Republicans are the ones that care about health, safety, environment and all Texans. Yes, Austinites are Texans too:) Thank you, you wonderful man.</p> <p>I will be praying for your continued success,</p> <p>Crystal Ouzillou</p>
Mrs. Kara Ozen	9/16/2019	Austin	<p>Good afternoon. My husband and I have always lived in Austin in fact He is what you call a unicorn being that he has been born in Austin and raised here. Our issue is the homeless ordinance that has been allowed to be passed here in city of Austin. We are seeing littering at an all-time high, tents everywhere and homeless people walking around completely high out of their gourds which interferes with traffic and just a regular citizen walking down the street. We own a salon and spa and we have to escort at least 1-2 homeless out of our salon once a week. Not to mention the Sanitation of it all!! They are literally going to the bathroom in the streets! What do you think this is going to do two are drinking system??! I'm not understanding why this is still allowed to be legal? We are asking you governor Abbott to please reverse this horrific Bill! The city of Austin is upset and we never voted to pass such an ordinance! I have voted for you since college (25+). PLEASE HELP OUR CITY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!</p>
Dr. Becky Pack	10/3/2019	Leander	<p>Gov, thank you so much for addressing the homeless issue in and around Austin. I am saddened each time I see more tents and homeless living under bridges in our communities and, spreading north beyond Austin borders. Such a public health issue! I find it hard to believe there are those who do not see this as shameful and how this can be seen as humane treatment for homeless. My prayers for your continued success. - Becky</p>
Mr. Theo Painter III	7/10/2019	Austin	<p>Homelessness. Gov. Abbott, The homeless situation is getting out of hand. Please override this latest ordinance passed by the city council to allow "camping" wherever folks want. Just as the situation was getting under control at Cameron and 183, this ordinance passed. Now there are beds, sectional couches, a baby changing table (today's addition) and a significant amount of trash, everywhere. The council has only empowered these folks to run roughshod over the city. If it's not already a crisis, it soon will be. I don't have the solution to the problem sorry to say but just allowing this to continue is going to ruin the city. Theo Painter</p>

Mrs. Renee R Parker	8/19/2019	Austin	<p>Homeless. Please find a place for them. They are making a mess. One walk in middle of the street and I had to slam on my breaks to keep from hitting him and then he got violent. Austin starting to get trashy used to be beautiful at one time. Our city council and our mayor need to go they can go live somewhere else. They are the reason the Austin starting to get trashy. I know what the homeless go live with the city council and the mayor. I just want to let you know that I think you're a good governor and that you have Austin and Texas in your heart. Please help.</p>
Mr. Larry Park	10/3/2019	austin	<p>I just want to say thank you for your efforts to help the citizens of Austin with the homeless mess. Our mayor and city council are for reasons unknown to me, letting the homeless take over the city. Their unwillingness to listen to the taxpayers is so very frustrating. I live and work in South Austin, my wife works at 6th and Congress. We literally can not escape the trash and crime created by this move on the city's part. It's on our street, our shopping centers, the schools. It's literally everywhere we turn in our daily life. I also want to say I was proud of you and the way you led the state during and after hurricane Harvey. Thanks again and keep up the good work.</p> <p>Larry Park Austin, TX</p>
Dr. SAMIR R PATEL MD	10/3/2019	AUSTIN	<p>Dear Honorable Governor Abbott:</p> <p>I had been meaning to write to ask for assistance on a state level for the homeless issue in Austin. I had just read a news article that the Office of the Governor was considering stepping in to this issue and I wanted to comment.</p> <p>As we are all well aware, homelessness is problem in Austin as it is in many parts of our country. I am sympathetic to the needs of our homeless population.</p> <p>However we need real solutions, not the half-baked nonsense which has been imposed upon the residents of this city by our dim witted mayor and his band of city council clowns. What irks me most is city government did not stop to listen to the voices of the majority of the city. They instead catered to the loud voices of several small radical groups.</p> <p>I am asking you as our Governor to please step in and be the adult in the room. If you could enact some common sense laws which would establish legal guardrails and prevent the madness that is happening here I would be forever grateful. I know I echo the thoughts of many in the city.</p> <p>Thank you for taking the time to read this email.</p> <p>Best regards Samir</p>
Dr. William J Paver	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for taking a stand on homelessness in Austin. We have lived here for 40 years and would like to see the quality of life here continue to be what it has in the past.</p> <p>Bill Paver</p>
Mr. Jack Pearson	10/7/2019	Fort Worth	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>With regards to the homeless problem which the Mayor and City Council of Austin have created:</p> <p>Please call a special session and outlaw ordinances that the rogue Mayor and City Council of Austin instituted which created the homeless problem in Austin. This will prevent communist inspired Mayors and City Councils in other major metro areas of Texas from repeating a planned and intentional homeless disaster like this for the purposes of robbing more freedoms from American citizens. The Communist Democrats never let a crisis which they create go to waste. They always use "crises" to take freedom of hard-working Americans.</p> <p>You could also use the same special session to pass genuine property tax reform which you purposely failed to do in the last regular session. Because you turned against conservatives on numerous issues from abortion to over-spending to tax relief, I can no longer support you. You and the Lt. Governor have become lying cowards. Your shameful and intentional lack of leadership was extremely costly to the great State of Texas during the most recent legislative session. Very sad.</p> <p>I hope that President Trump DOES NOT endorse you. But unfortunately, he probably has to.</p>
Mr. shawn c pell	10/7/2019	san angelo	<p>Thank you sir for addressing the out of control city of Austin for that homeless problem they seem to not care about!!</p> <p>In addition please start be out spoken for Donald trump and supporting his securing the border, you were very loud when obamma was in office to secure our border but now like many republicans when someone is in office that will back you, all of a sudden you are quite??//? Why are you so quite and not going to briefings with our president? we have one of the worst borders that illegals come across i really think you are a great Governor and would love for you and ted cruz run for president after president trump is reelected!!! So please start talking your toughness on border you did with obamma that you seem to forgot with trump and lets get texas secure</p>

Mr. David W Pelzel	7/12/2019	San Antonio	I urge you to stop the stupid policy the Austin mayor has implemented regarding allowing homeless people to set up tents on city streets. You warned back in June that if Austin does go through with it, then you'll be forced to bring the power of Texas down on the city. Well, Governor, let the power of Texas pounce on the Austin mayor. Thank you for the great job you are doing leading Texas!
Mrs. Terri Penstock	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Please issue an executive order to reverse the camping ban that allows camping in public areas. in Austin. At the same time, we need to stop Austin from being a Sanctuary city for illegal immigrants because it is increasing the number of homeless and increasing our crime rates including drugs and shootings.</p> <p>I sent Mayor Adler a very thoughtful set of suggestions for using the schools that we are closing in Austin to house the homeless and his office acknowledged my letter, but of course - NO ACTION was taken.</p> <p>Please take action so Adler and his crew don't ruin our beautiful city.</p> <p>Thanks, Terri Penstock</p>
Mr. Philip B Pesses	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for stepping up to help us resolve the dire homeless, health and safety situation in Austin, Texas.</p> <p>Your leadership and continued overwatch is our only chance to save our city from Mayor Adler and the socialist City Council.</p> <p>Please continue to put pressure on them all to find another city and state to try and destroy. We have other cities and states sending us their homeless, illegal immigrants and criminals on buses to the Austin Greyhound station as many videos and news have reported.</p> <p>We can not be burdened with increasing taxes to pay for their poor choices that put all Texans in danger. Also, please open a AG investigation into Adler's wife's property development company for unethically acquiring assets related to city, the multiple non-profits that benefit from Austin's budget to increase homelessness, provide them tents and organize them to demand greater benefits that the taxpayers have to burden after they create bigger budgets.</p> <p>Thanks, Philip</p> <p>P.S. STOP THE CALIFORNICATION OF TEXAS!</p>
Ms. Elisa Pinigis	6/25/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Gov. Abbott -</p> <p>Regarding Austin's homeless situation:</p> <p>I am a business owner, employer, residential property owner and commercial property owner in Austin Texas for over 20 years. I am part of a community mobilization that objects to City of Austin's plans for the homeless because they plans are irresponsible for both the homeless community and non-homeless community. Austin is already in crisis due to its homeless situation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Police: Austin Police Department states that it has been told to "stand down" regarding law enforcement relating to homeless activity. Austin 311 states that APD can no longer go to homeless encampments. - Laws: Are not being enforced: ex. drug use, public alcohol consumption - Ordinances: Are not being enforced: ex. residential zoning, sanitation, garbage collection, open fires, etc. - Drugs: Austin has a drug problem that contributes to the homeless situation but won't address it. - Safety: Some of the homeless population are extremely aggressive. - Homeless: Are living in sub-humane conditions outdoors: ex. no shelter, no sanitation, no protection from wildlife or human predators, etc. - City council members and staff don't respond, are slow to respond or don't offer solutions when Austin citizens report specific issues. - TxDOT's Austin office hangs up on community members who call about encampments then doesn't answer the phone. <p>The quality of life in Austin for everyone living this situation on a daily basis is poor and deteriorating. And now Austin is lawless as a result of the city council's recent actions. Please help us. Please help us as soon as possible.</p> <p>Thank you for all you to do protect Texas families, business owners, employers, property owners and Texas values.</p> <p>Sincerely, Elisa Pinigis</p>
Mrs. Lori Pizzuti	10/3/2019	New Braunfels	THANK YOU FOR STEPPING UP FOR AUSTIN's homeless problem. Those city slickers are wearing thin on the rest of us that actually care about decency. Have you considered running for President? You'll have my vote!
Mrs. Patti K Poff	10/3/2019	Houston	Greg Abbott I am surprised at your response to homeless people. Most homeless people (they are people) are dealing with physical or mental illness and/or addiction. I understand the concerns in neighborhoods where the "unsightly issues of living on the street" are not welcome. But, I think if we approached the challenge with empathy and look for solutions that involve health care and treatment and housing, then Austin could set a remarkable example in teaching other cities. The possibilities are only limited by a lack of compassion and creativity.

Pamela Popelka	10/3/2019	Austin	Rather than threaten the City of Austin regarding the homeless issue, Governor Abbott should consider offering whatever HELP it can through the state agencies. Just because Austin is a blueberry amongst the raspberries in this state, I would assume the help should be equitable, regardless of political party. Maybe, if the Texas Lege Republicans would be more open to expanding Medicaid , we wouldn't have as many homeless, either.
Ms. Robert H Powell	10/4/2019	Houston	I was glad to see that you requested Austin to clean up its streets and remove the homeless blight. Houston has the same problem. Could you please request the Houston Mayor to do address the homeless blight.
Mr. Cliff Priddy	10/3/2019	Austin	Thank you for putting an end to the stupid effort of the Austin Council to "decriminalize homelessness." As a resident of Austin, I am so glad you intervened to put an end to this ridiculousness!!! Thanks for helping to clean up the streets and restore law and order!
Mrs. Jennifer L Priestley	7/23/2019	Austin	I'd like to voice my concern for the Austin City Council rescinding the laws allowing the homeless to camp/sleep in public areas. This is dangerous for our health, safety, and community. This puts the choices of a minority of individuals above the public good and I encourage you to use whatever means you have available to you in your position as Governor of this great state to change this before our fine city undergoes irreversible damage and ends up like a Seattle, San Francisco, or L.A. With appreciation, Jennifer Priestley
Mrs. Peggy Puckett	10/3/2019	Austin	On behalf of my entire family, we would like to thank you for taking the initiative to stop this insanity that is plaguing our beautiful city concerning the homeless population. I was born here in 1954 and am appalled at what our Mayor and City Council have done to encourage the homeless population to just "take a seat at the table". My dad is a hardworking attorney who offices downtown still at age 92 and he has on numerous occasions been harassed and had to walk through feces to get to his office. His parking lot attendant was attacked and the police did nothing. It breaks my heart to see this happening and we all agree that something needs to be done. Thank you again for recognizing this and hopefully there can be a solution.
Mr. and Mrs. J. Larry Railey	10/7/2019	Houston	My wife and I most strongly urge that you exercise state power to clean up the homeless camps. Sincerely, J. Larry and Rosalind Railey
Mrs. Carolyn S Rainwater	8/2/2019	Pearland	Governor Abbott, I have a daughter that will be attending UT this fall and while we were at her new student conference I watched the local news and I am very concerned about the homeless situation in the city especially close to campus! I reached out to the mayor of Austin but have not received any response! What is being done to remedy this situation? Your response will be much appreciated! Thank you, Carolyn Rainwater Have a blessed day!
Mrs. Karen Ratliff	10/7/2019	Austin	Dear Governor Abbott, I am very concerned about the City of Austin's decision to allow the homeless population to camp wherever possible unless it is in the right of way. We have a homeless camp that has been reported to the police. It is a large population of homeless camping in the woods along South 1st Street from 7200 S 1st Street to Dittmar Lane. They are visible from the street. Some clean up has been done, but it is still cluttered and filled with trash. I have been in contact with Officer Kelly, at Ralph Albaredo Police Station, our district rep about the problem. He has stated that the homeless living there are in violation of criminal trespassing and that drugs have been found in the vicinity. The police have gotten permission to prosecute and remove the homeless from the four land owners. Now their hands are tied by the city council saying they can only be ticketed. This homeless camp is on a bus route #10, and between 2 schools, Bedichek Middle School and Williams Elementary and a daycare. Children have to walk past the homeless camp on the way to school and it is not safe. The homeless are very close to our subdivision of 100 homes and we are having break-ins to our cars and houses on a regular basis. Please allow the police to do their jobs and remove these homeless. Sincerely, Karen Ratliff

Mr. Zach Redler 7/17/2019 Austin

Hello,
I am a lifelong Democratic (but moderate), and want to thank you for speaking up for Austin and fighting back against the ridiculous homeless policies of the Austin city council. Honestly, I think Republicans have an opportunity in Travis County (and maybe other urban areas in Texas) on this issue.
See below for an email I sent to my Austin council member, Ann Kitchen (follow-up to my voice of opposition to their policies before the recent vote, no response to either).
Just wanted to share in case it is useful for you. If you send me an email, I can send you the chart images that aren't posting below.
Thanks again,
Zach
----- Hello again,
Hope all is well. I wanted to wait a bit to send this to let things settle down a bit so you might actually read it. I send this with respect, but in the effort of keeping it brief I'll be direct.
Super disappointed in the shelter as well as other decisions that were made that day. Do you have any research or evidence that supports those decisions being good ideas?
See below for an article I read recently about San Francisco. I used to travel to SF monthly for work, from about 2004-2015. Every year, it seemed to get worse - not just the aggressive (and sometimes dangerous) homeless encounters, but the trash, filth, etc. Towards the end of my travels, I was disgusted with a city I used to love - and have had no desire to go back since. I felt sorry for the residents with such high real estate costs having to deal with the crazy situations I witnessed.
I used to wonder whether it was just me, maybe I was getting older or something else was causing me to pay more attention to that stuff. But then I found this article. It wasn't just my impressions. Look at the dramatic increases in human waste and needle complaints.
I am extremely concerned that Austin is heading in this direction with the current City Council policies. I was born here and have lived here my entire life, and don't want to see my city ruined.
Again, I would love to see any compelling evidence or research that supports your decisions. Otherwise, I will be joining the efforts to unseat EVERY SINGLE member of this council. Even if a Republican runs, I will vote for them. I am a life-long Democrat, but this is the SINGLE LARGEST issue that has caused a decline in our quality of life here in Austin over the past 5 years or so. And yes, there is another recall effort mobilizing and I will do all I can to support it.
This is such a great city and community, and I have no choice left but to get involved and defend it.
<https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/27/health/drug-use-san-francisco-streets/index.html>
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Screen Shot 2019-07-12 at 4.11.04 PM.png

Ms. Rebecca Reedy 10/3/2019 Austin

Dear Governor Abbott,
Thank you for recognizing the crisis of homelessness in Texas. It is, as you know, actually a national crisis. With sound policy and adequate funding, people can be moved off the streets in to healthier more stable living situations.
I really like living indoors, being able to eat regularly, being healthy and seeing my children do well. It is my wish that all Texans can experience the same. Seeing countless people denied that both here in Texas and around our great nation is a constant source of sorrow for me.
So thank you once again.
Sincerely,
Rebecca Reedy

Ms. Brenda E Reese 7/16/2019 Austin

Please help us STOP the Austin City Council and their new homeless proposals and center in South Austin. This is the State Capital of Texas, please help us keep it clean and safe. The City has done a terrible job managing the ARCH in downtown Austin, the traffic in Austin & most things they do, they waited until the Legislature was out to do this, intentionally. The Mayor even said on TV that they will have 2 years before the legislature comes back to "show them how successful this will be". Please HELP US STOP THEM! We need your help!
Thank You,
Brenda Reese

Mr. Charles W Reger lii 10/4/2019

Yes! I applaud the Governor for his actions on cleaning up the Austin homeless problem. We will not become California. We will keep Austin for all Texans and not let it slide into a cesspool. Please follow through with all due speed. It is late.

Mrs. Christie C Richardson	9/10/2019	Walnut Springs	<p>Hello Mr. Abbott and staff,</p> <p>I've been reading the news and I've been thinking about all that I've read and thought about the things I might be able to inspire you and your staff to think as a possible and positive outcome to write into law.</p> <p>1. I'm sure that the business owners of Austin are tired of the homeless people. It's a real trial and shame for the homeless people be out and around the streets. They're like stray animals. But not all of them are drug doers and not all of them are people who lost everything they have. But there maybe people who're truly mentally sick and have to be taken off the streets. Would be a good deal if we had a ward that we could put the mentally sick that's always been sick. They have to prove that there's no drugs in their system and they have to prove that they can't work and they can't take care of themselves. It might take forever to finish with each person but there will be that much less of the homeless.</p> <p>2. There needs to be more officers on the streets watching what goes on, where there's people calling about some sort of Miss Deeds being done. This will help the mayors everywhere.</p> <p>3. Group homes must have stronger rules and extra people for support and help. Otherwise they do not get their license for being open for business.</p> <p>4. I don't care what the nursing homes say. They still don't have 4 CNA's per hall also would think that if they don't have 4 CNA's per hall then they should have a camera per each hall and in the lobbies and the break room. Also an agency in each city/town that has nursing homes. The agency must be apart of the government. These nursing homes have been like that for far too long and the Texas residents have the right to be in a home that's going to take care of them properly. Plus the families won't have a chance to sue them for something.</p> <p>5. Those that are rich from owning a business and is harming their business are to pay higher Taxes, put 50 thousand back into their business and take a refreshers course in business. If the owner never took the course for running a business then they not only have to take the course but suspend their license for 10 years, work for a company then get their business going within 4 years after the time of their suspension.</p> <p>I hope that I gave you something to work with.</p> <p>I am shocked at the new law that allows homeless people to squat anywhere they want. I was in Austin today. I was appalled at how trashy the city is becoming with mattresses and camps in underpasses and sidewalks. Today we drove by a man sitting on a sidewalk on Lamar. He was drunk and could barely open his eyes and sit up. His pants fly was open and he was exposing his penis. I think Austin will become a haven for crazy people and abusers. This is putting the tax paying citizens at a safety risk. Especially young ladies near the UT campus. The tax payers are also going to pay to clean up after them.</p> <p>Austin will NO LONGER be one of the nicest places to live in the country anymore. Soon businesses will no longer want to move their commerce to Austin and they will go elsewhere.</p> <p>DO REALIZE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE?????!!!!</p> <p>I personally will no longer be going into Austin for any reason other than Texas Oncology and that only because that is a life and death situation.</p> <p>Sincerely Grace Riedel</p>
Mr. Marvin D Riedel	7/23/2019	Harwood	<p>I am shocked at the new law that allows homeless people to squat anywhere they want. I was in Austin today. I was appalled at how trashy the city is becoming with mattresses and camps in underpasses and sidewalks. Today we drove by a man sitting on a sidewalk on Lamar. He was drunk and could barely open his eyes and sit up. His pants fly was open and he was exposing his penis. I think Austin will become a haven for crazy people and abusers. This is putting the tax paying citizens at a safety risk. Especially young ladies near the UT campus. The tax payers are also going to pay to clean up after them.</p> <p>Austin will NO LONGER be one of the nicest places to live in the country anymore. Soon businesses will no longer want to move their commerce to Austin and they will go elsewhere.</p> <p>DO REALIZE WHAT YOU HAVE DONE?????!!!!</p> <p>I Personally will no longer be going into Austin for any reason other than Texas Oncology and that only because that is a life and death situation.</p> <p>Sincerely Grace Riedel</p>
Mr. Travis E Rippe	8/22/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>My family and I implore you to step in concerning Austin's new homeless policies. Mayor Adler and the Austin City Council have turned their back on the average resident and set this city on a path to destruction. In less than four years I have gone from pride in my hometown to embarrassment and disgust. My wife and I had the unfortunate experience of having to live in California for three years during her surgery residency. The day we left California ranked in my top five happiest days of my life. Now all of a sudden, Austin is beginning to take on the same look and feel.</p> <p>The final straw came after seeing Mayor Adler's comments following today's town hall meeting concerning the new homeless policies. He's all to happy to tout his stats on eliminating child homelessness, veteran homelessness, and homelessness due to mental health issues. While I don't necessarily believe that based on what I see driving around, if so, great. By my estimation that leaves working age adults with full mental capacities, culminating in the ability to find a job. Mayor Adler then touts he is currently spending \$225,000 on "his" upper tier of homeless. Even going so far as to say he would purchase apartments in order to house them which he would inspect himself on a monthly basis. This has all become preposterous!</p> <p>Please step in and help. While I may not be proud to say I am from Austin at the moment, I am still proud as hell to be a Texan.</p> <p>Please keep our capital city from looking like it belongs in California, not Texas.</p> <p>Travis Rippe</p>

Mr. Donald B Robinson	9/5/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I'm begging you to step in to help resolve the Austin homeless situation. Since the city council removed the camping restrictions in June, I have been accosted twice by vagrants downtown. I've worked at 5th and Congress for close to 4 years. This has never happened before. Now it's happened twice since June. My coworkers have started working from home out of fear of being harassed. Please do something.</p>
Mr. Rodger R Robinson	10/4/2019	Pflugerville	<p>I just wanted to say thank you for speaking up and doing something about the ever growing homeless situation in Austin. It's ridiculous. People that work in our office can't even walk down to the 7-eleven any longer without being pestered by a dozen people begging. There was a homeless guy camping out in a garage near our work, you wouldn't believe how much mess just one person can make, even within 20 ft of garbage containers, he would leave trash everywhere. They have since closed up the garage and he's gone. I am so look forward to the day Austin switches to being more conservative, I've never seen a city go downhill so quickly. Thanks again.</p> <p>P.S. I live in Pflug but have a rental in Austin</p> <p>MAGA</p> <p>Make Austin Great Again, dump the libs.</p>
Mrs. Pamela Rodriguez	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor,</p> <p>I was born and raised in Austin. I'm a registered Republican and proudly support both you and Senator Ted Cruz. I'm writing this to beg for your help with the homeless situation in Austin.</p> <p>It has become out of hand and unsafe for the citizens of this city.</p> <p>My family and I are preparing to sell our home and move if this ordinance is not recalled and if Adler continues to ruin our once beautiful city.</p> <p>Please help us Austinites!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Pamela</p>
Mr. Alberto Rodriguez	6/26/2019	Austin	<p>The increase of Homeless in the city of Austin. I work in Austin and have the homeless population increase over the last ten years. The Austin City Council just passed or did away with certain ordinances that dealt with camping and solicitations by the homeless. Home of the homeless camps are in areas that I feel are unsafe. Mainly underneath the 35 and 71 over passes. I'm even seen them on the medians. It's only a matter of time that someone gets ran over. Not to mention the damage they are causing to our infrastructure. These areas are controlled by TXDOT. Is there any way to have TXDOT prevent these people from setting up camp in these areas. I can send pictures if you like.</p>
Ms. Beverly Roland	7/12/2019		<p>We are upset with Austin removing the few restrictions we had on the homeless population, without any other plan taking its place. Now, Mayor Adler is traveling to Seattle to visit about the problem there! Why pick a place with a problem worse than ours and no way yet to fix it, rather than pick a place like Berkeley, CA</p> <p>"Many programs and initiatives designed to aid the homeless population of the city of Berkeley, CA have been designed by UC-Berkeley faculty and staff, such as Berkeley Food and Housing Project, and Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency."</p> <p>Europe has done a good job dealing with the homeless population:</p> <p>"Vienna offers a vision of a city that doesn't shove long-time residents to neighboring communities, accommodates a range of incomes, and actually has enough affordable housing that the homeless problem is solved. Recently, a Museum of Vancouver exhibit, "The Vienna Model: Housing for the 21st Century City," has provoked considerable attention."</p> <p>There are several cities mentioned on-line with a quick Google search that can be contacted to learn how their models and other cities plans work. Maybe we can get some good ideas that would work here. Traveling to Seattle, which has one of the worst problems with the homeless population, tent cities, and no good plan to fix it all, doesn't make any sense at all and is a waste of his time and our money.</p> <p>Although we are usually on the side of City rights without interference from State government, in this case, we urge you to do something about getting some rules back in place. Better something than nothing with no plan to replace what we had. We are worried about sanitary conditions, trash, assaults go up with no rules, etc. In this case, Austin needs help to get common sense back into our City Council. only Rep. Tovo and Alter voted again the removal of the ordinances without more research and a replacement policy.</p> <p>Thank you! Beverly R.</p>

Ms. c roperts	9/19/2019	dallas	<p>Homelessness (wrong name) has become a problem nationwide. The taxpayer will pay for either in decreased property values, reduced tourism, increased crime, and disease. Instead of improperly calling it homelessness why don't we identify the real problem--drug addiction and mental illness. Austin is following in the shadows of Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Due to public health concerns, this should not be permitted. Instead, the police should be encouraged to arrest these individuals for minor violations, tent cities should be removed, and these individuals should be placed in a Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program. A shining example is Rhode Island. To continue to permit such destructive policies is not compassionate for those living on the streets or the citizens that live in the area. I am calling on you to lead in the creation of a state-wide MAT program, reopen mental health institutions, and end the billion dollar slush funds Democrats call for to end this crisis that never ends.</p>
Mrs. Melison Rumelt	8/27/2019	AUSTIN	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>My family and I reside in the 78704 area, as you know our city council has decided to prioritize the homeless over the safety of our families and vulnerable children. I am reaching out in hopes that Governor Abbott can help the residents of Austin feel safe in our city once again. The Manchaca/Benwhite underpass is a health hazard and is unsafe for pedestrians. My family pays an exorbitant amount of property taxes every year and the Austin City Council shows no regard for taxpayers, only the homeless. They are creating unsafe, health hazards by allowing unrestricted open camping. We are expected to follow the laws and regulations put in place by the city while a certain segment of the population gets to do as they please. The parks that I pay for are not safe. The streets that I pay to maintain are not safe. Please override the City Council's ridiculous camping ban, please call a special session. Last I checked we are not a socialist run government, no matter how much the City Council of Austin to become one.</p> <p>Sincerely, Melison Rumelt</p>
Mrs. Karen D Ryan	7/3/2019	New Braunfels	<p>Please please repeal the law that allows the homeless to camp on our capitals streets. Please don't let our beautiful capital turn into a filthy slum.</p>
Mr. Stephan A Saia	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I'd like to offer you my support for your initiatives to address Austin's homeless crisis. I serve as president and CEO of EPSI, a non-profit agency headquartered in Austin whose mission is to provide meaningful employment to people with disabilities (www.epsi-solutions.org). We specialize in hospital environmental, janitorial, and grounds maintenance/landscaping services. EPSI supports several state agencies by providing these services under TWC's WorkQuest program. One of our contracts supports homeless encampment cleanup (HEC) for the Watershed Protection Department (WPD). With Austin's homeless crisis in the news every day, I felt compelled to share that our agency employs formerly homeless personnel to clean designated homeless encampments for the WPD. All of our homeless encampment crew has some kind of disability. Some are struggling to recover from past mistakes that led to incarceration. It's a rag tag group, but you would be incredibly proud of our small crew. Homeless encampment cleanup involves working around trash, drug needles, furniture soaked with bodily fluids, and human waste. We occasionally work in tunnels where the smell can be overpowering. But we do it because we love this city. We want to be a part of making it shine. And in return, we offer our employees a livable wage and lots of support.</p> <p>I agreed to take on the WPS homeless encampment cleanups because WorkQuest brought the opportunity to my attention a few days after I had returned from a business trip in Seattle. Seattle is a beautiful city, but I was shocked by the homeless crisis that seems to infect every one of its downtown streets. It made me fearful for our city's future. I believe that homelessness is a problem we need to solve, not manage. I've seen the assertive stance your office is taking to ensure that happens. I want EPSI to remain a part of that solution. You can count on our continued support. Thank you.</p> <p>Stephan A. Saia</p> <p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Please overturn the City of Austin's ruling on the homelessness. I am resident downtown and property owner. Everyday I'm confronted with dangerous homeless people outside of my building. The police and city officials will not help deal with these individuals and I do not know what to do. I have to be very careful of the routes I take and when and where I go. Not to mention, the property values will continue to go down if the homeless have free rein in our beautiful downtown area. Austin is one of the most amazing cities I've ever lived in and it continues to boom. Please help curb this senseless bureaucratic ruling and keep Austin safe. The last thing Texas needs is to turn into California and Seattle. We need your help to overturn this ruling!!</p> <p>Law abiding citizen and property owner of Austin, Chase</p>
Mr. Chase Salafia	6/25/2019	Austin	

Mrs. Janie Saldana	6/25/2019	<p>Dear Governor Abbot, I live in the Southwood neighborhood . COA Council Members voted to purchase the building at 1112 Ben White for a 100 bed facility to help the homeless and has also voted to allow the homeless to camp under the bridge at Ben White and Manchaca. I beg you to come out to see what is happening to our neighborhood. We live in that neighborhood and since the Sunrise Community Church was managed by the current pastor and is now using the facility as a navigation center our neighborhood has changed and not in a positive way. We can longer walk to our coffee shop, store or park without having and encounter with a homeless. I stoped using our bus system because of that. Ann Kitchen told a group of us at a general neighborhood meeting that it was going to change with the new depot opened. I still waiting for that to happen. It has gotten worse. Now with the new ordinance I'm afraid it will only get worse. I wonder why a homeless is able to set up camp under that bridge with his blowup mattress and a recliner like it is his living room and is able to have an open container and drink all day and is able to urinate in daylight . Yet , we as a tax paying citizen that owns a home gets a warning for having trash bins on your street in front of your house. Please help .</p>
Mrs. Linda Salomon	10/2/2019	<p>Austin</p> <p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>THANK YOU, THANK YOU , THANK YOU! We have been shocked at the rapid increase of homeless in Austin. They are everywhere camping both north and south, and panhandling at stop lights. We should send as many home to their families as possible. That would be a gift to them. Mayor Adler is a kind man, but he went to Los Angeles to learn how to deal with the problem. That is NOT a model to follow at all. We have family in LA and San Francisco who are beside themselves. My niece has had to clean human feces off her office window 3 times in 6 months. To follow their example is an insane course. PLEASE act swiftly and save Austin before we become the next San Francisco.</p> <p>Thank you, Linda Salomon</p>
Mrs. Leslie M Sanders	7/3/2019	<p>Austin</p> <p>I live right outside of Oak Hill on 290, just outside of Austin's city limits. Our Neighborhood website has gone crazy over the homeless situation in Austin. Miraculously, 98% of the people are for stricter laws regarding the homeless and almost everyone agreed that you are Austin's only help!!! Please do whatever you can to force Austin to repeal their homeless ruling to save our beautiful city.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Ms. Janie Sarason	10/4/2019	<p>Austin</p> <p>Please remember that homeless people are also deserving of the same rights as housed people are. When you speak of public safety, remember that they are part of that public who need it, as well as citizens with housing.</p> <p>I sincerely hope that your intent is to offer support to cities to find humane ways to address homelessness. We only need the National Guard here if they are creating housing and other services. We don't need them to come and threaten some of the most vulnerable people in Austin.</p> <p>Thank you for your concern for all of us Texans.</p>
Dr. Christi Savarese	7/15/2019	<p>Houston</p> <p>I live in Houston, Texas where the homeless population is staggering. There are American citizens living on the street. They are mentally ill, drug addicted men, women and children who are lost brothers, sisters, sons, daughters and veterans. Why aren't we putting the same effort to help them get off the streets that we put into seeking out immigrants who are productive members of our community? ICE is terrorizing our lowest paid members of our society who are barely making a living wage but are good, kind people. Why are we wreaking havoc on good people while the Americans who need real attention are living on the streets? Help America to be stronger. Help America to be kinder. Help America to be better. Focus on the Americans who need our help FIRST! We need to focus on our US citizens, not the productive immigrants who are trying to become citizens.</p>

Mrs. Caitlin Sawyer	7/8/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>I wanted to share my experiences with the homeless in Austin to give you a sense of the types of things that have been going on. Thank you for speaking out against Mayor Adler and his recent decision to repeal ordinances in an effort to decriminalize homelessness in Austin. The homelessness problem has already become much worse and I no longer feel safe in my neighborhood or trust the police to help me.</p> <p>We live in East Austin, in a neighborhood that is 2 miles from downtown. We currently have a growing homeless camp that lives on the sidewalk about 100 feet from our house. Aside from the homeless camp, this is a desirable neighborhood to live in. Over the past month, we have seen the homeless people on our street commit many crimes and have contacted the police each time that we witness these crimes. Among other things, we have seen drug deals near the intersection of Pleasant Valley Ave and 7th Street, indecent exposure 100 feet from our house, and public intoxication. The police unfortunately did not come fast enough to catch the drug deal. When we called the police about the indecent exposure and public intoxication, we were told that there is nothing that they can do regarding Class C Misdemeanors. They refuse to give these people tickets, even when enough unpaid tickets would lead to a warrant for their arrest.</p> <p>Now that the ordinances have been removed and the homeless are permitted to camp on the sidewalks, we are unable to walk on the sidewalk next to our house. The police have told us that as long as there is an inch or two available on the sidewalk such that we could technically tip toe past the homeless, they are not obstructing the sidewalk. We disagree - if we need to rely on one or two inches to barely avoid touching the homeless on the sidewalk, this seems like an obstruction to us because we end up just walking in the middle of the street for our safety.</p> <p>Last night we had the worse experience that we have had to date. We were walking our dog around 10 pm and needed to pass the homeless people next to our house. One of the homeless people has two small dogs that aggressively lunge at our dog whenever we pass by. To avoid the homeless people with these dogs, we were forced to step off the sidewalk and walk into the street to avoid an encounter with those dogs. As we were walking by, our dog barked at these two dogs and got a bit closer (but was on the edge of the sidewalk that was unblocked by the homeless). Our dog never touched the other dogs or the homeless people. The homeless woman with the dogs screamed at our dogs and lifted up her leg, attempting to kick at our dog. I have started videotaping all of our encounters lately and I have a video of this if you are interested - please let me know.</p> <p>When we called the police, they didn't even show up. Instead, I got a phone call where the police officer explained to me that there is nothing that they can do about the homeless because of the repeal of the ordinances. I told the officer that our experience has nothing to do with the ordinances - there was a homeless person who was aggressively trying to kick at my dog from her place on the sidewalk while we were in the street. This didn't matter to the police officer. He told me that there is absolutely nothing that he can do. He felt badly for us but explained that the Austin City Council had tied the hands of the Austin Police.</p> <p>We were absolutely horrified by this experience. The taxpaying citizens of Austin should not be forced to walk in the middle of the street to avoid the homeless that are blocking the sidewalk.</p>
Ms. susan scherr	7/12/2019	Sterling, VA	<p>I am considering moving to Austin, Texas, from Virginia. I am horrified by the city council's actions to allow homeless people to live on public sidewalks. What is wrong with them? Do they want to bring all the filth to Texas from California and other western states? What is the mayor doing to quell this? I heard that he is in favor of it and is going to LA to find out how that city is dealing with it. I know the LA police had to stop walking certain beats due to the fact that they were getting sick and bringing it home to their families.</p> <p>I hope you do something to stop this outrage. I understand that some have even camped out in front of private residences. Do you have any power to stop this? Again, I ask what is wrong with the city council? Is the public invited to their meetings? Are people protesting?</p> <p>To be sure, if I move to Austin, I will not vote for any of those liberals.</p>
Emily Schmitz	8/20/2019	Austin	<p>I am writing you about the transient camping problem that has inundated our beautiful city of Austin, including my neighborhood in NW Austin (Great Hills/Arboretum area).</p> <p>I hope Governor Abbott will consider issuing an executive order to reverse the camping ban that allows camping in public areas.</p> <p>Thank you so much, Emily Schmitz</p>

Mr. Matthew Schoenberg	7/19/2019	Austin	<p>I am writing to you in the hopes that you will reverse the new homeless laws passed in Austin. I left San Francisco because the liberal ideals got in the way of protecting the citizens. The implementation of liberal ideology became more important than the safety of the citizens walking on the streets. San Francisco became a city where you can no longer feel safe to walk in the streets.</p> <p>While I support measures to help the homeless, I don't believe the recent law does anything to really help. All it does is make the streets of Austin unsafe for its citizens. I personally witnessed in San Francisco what happens when you allow this type of legislation to take effect, and I hope and pray that you will not allow this to happen in Texas.</p> <p>I came to this state because I felt it was the best in the nation because of its pride and desire to protect its citizens.</p> <p>Please don't let this mistake in Austin to continue. Please reverse this legislation and force them to figure out other ways to help the homeless that will not destroy the city capital and make the streets unsafe.</p> <p>Thank you very much for reading this.</p>
Mrs. Teresa D Schoenberg	7/31/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor:</p> <p>Please reverse the new homeless law in Austin.</p> <p>I came from San Francisco to get away from the homeless problem. The exacerbated and unsafe, unsanitary conditions of San Francisco started with similar liberal codes, allowing homeless to camp on public streets. Los Angeles and San Diego have followed suit with similar devastating results.</p> <p>Please let the capital of Texas remain safe for all citizens and do not allow the same results happen here as in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Teresa D Schoenberg</p>
Ms. Jo Anne Scott	7/12/2019	Richmond	<p>Why is it that nothing can be done RIGHT NOW to help taxpaying homeowners with this new "homeless law" in Austin Texas?</p> <p>No doubt the lunatic, liberals that advocated for this live in gated communities so no tent cities will ruin their property values.</p> <p>It is reported that a delegation from Austin will travel to Los Angeles and Seattle to conference with morons in those places to see how they are handling their homeless. WHAT????</p> <p>The Bible says that when the blind lead the blind, everybody falls into a ditch!</p> <p>Action needs to be taken now before this kind of mess spreads to cities all over Texas.</p>
Mr. Tim Scott	6/25/2019	Austin	<p>I live in South Austin where our city council has decided to shift the growing "homeless" problem. The Ben White corridor is becoming a string of camps occupied by transient people with substance abuse and mental health problems. These areas are inundated with trash, human waste and unsavory people resulting in dangers to public health and safety. It's a misnomer to call this a "homeless" problem because the majority of the people inhabiting these camps are not interested in changing their lifestyle in ways that will allow them to establish a home for themselves.</p> <p>I normally favor local control versus intervention from the State, but the City government is effectively invading people's property by allowing public spaces to be abused. Lax enforcement was bad enough, but now they've legalized camping and other activities that will encourage more widespread abuses.</p> <p>Anyone who pays attention knows what's becoming of San Francisco, Seattle and Los Angeles. Please don't allow Austin to become a magnet for these lawless and harmful encampments.</p> <p>I hope you will follow through on your comments and do what you can to enact laws that will prevent Austin's government from taking our city down a path to ruin. Thank you.</p>
Mrs. Marla Shackett	10/3/2019	Leander	<p>Please stop the madness on Austin!! Having homeless people camp anywhere, beg loiter etc. is a big mistake!! There are feces and urine all over the place. There is no reason for the makeshift campgrounds to be allowed to pop up all over the city. I live in the far north side and am now seeing tents everywhere. Completely unsanitary and unsightly!!!</p> <p>Please help!!</p>
Mr. Larry W Shafer	8/20/2019		<p>I think the mayor of Austin and city council should be liable for letting the drug addicts, to be able to put up tents in city you live and you are the governor. If there is a outbreak serious disease outbreak that is uncontrollable. Then I think the mayor and city council should be held liable and arrested. You need to stop this. I am just a concerned Texas citizen.</p> <p>Thanks</p>

Mr. Erin R Silva	7/31/2019	El Paso	<p>Mr. Governor, I am a supporter of yours and I applaud what you are doing in our great state. I visit Austin frequently and my daughter lives there. My last visit there were a significant amount of homeless persons. I understand the the city approved for tents to be erected allowing the homeless to populate the streets. Please put a stop to this, No Texas city can be a San Francisco, Los Angeles or a Baltimore. My concern is my daughters safety and the safety of the people of Austin.</p> <p>I am confident you can fix this, provide the homeless population with mental health, get rid of drug addiction, embrace our veterans that are homeless, the economy is strong and can provide jobs. Maybe temporary housing but they have to work, learn a trade or work on getting back their mental health.</p> <p>Please fight it and fix it, we count on you.</p> <p>Last thing come to El Paso and see what you can do to help fix with all the illegal immigration, we need to take care of our citizens first and avoid the wages of hard working Texans to drop. Since the federal government can't stop the flow of drugs send the best, the Texas Rangers</p>
Mr. William F Skidmore	7/10/2019	Amarillo	<p>As the Governor of TX, how can you allow homeless to live just about any where they want. That is in the least a health hazard. If you can't stop this kind of thing I can't see you of being any help in the next elections. With all the disease coming in from the southern border we could use that to stop most of this crap. I have heard you preach against these things but honestly, actions speak louder than words.</p>
Mr. Art Sleighel	10/2/2019	El Paso	<p>You need to drive under any overpass in Austin. The homeless are taking over. Human waste and needles everywhere. You have to STOP this before it gets out of hand! Texas will never be like California. Please handle this problem.</p> <p>Thanks</p>
Mrs. Carol A Smith	8/14/2019	Austin	<p>Art Sleighel</p> <p>Please help Austin to stay a good clean city! The homeless situation is so out of control!! Not only are the homeless allowed to put tents, cardboard boxes anywhere, but recently they we staying in a cemetery! Today my husband was by Lakecreek Dr and toll road and saw a man just standing there urinating on street! Trash is under nearly every place that the homeless camp. They don't care about throwing trash on ground. Isn't there something you can do as our Governor?</p> <p>Please help us keep our city a clean and good city to live in.</p> <p>Thank you in advance</p>
Mrs. Carol A Smith	8/19/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbot,</p> <p>I am writing you to ask for your help. Our Mayor Adler and city council is ignoring our cry for help in regards to the homeless situation! Our city of Austin in becoming flooded with trash, needles from the homeless! Just the other day a homeless man was urinating in street with no concern at all! Please help our city! Please hear our cry for help on this matter.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
The Honorable Greg S Smith	10/3/2019	Corpus Christi	<p>Dear Gov. Abbott</p> <p>Thank you for addressing the homeless issue. Homeless is not an Austin problem, it is a Texas problem. Cities across this great state are all beset with homeless. It is a great problem in Corpus Christi among other cities and getting worse.</p> <p>Sincerely yours, Greg Smith Council-member The City of Corpus Christi</p>

Ms. Lois M Smith	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott:</p> <p>I heard your repulsive threats today against the city of Austin for its ongoing attempt to deal alone and without state support or help with the homeless situation. There is nothing in your public life that convinces me that you have taken to heart Jesus' message of love and compassion.</p> <p>I see you doing all you can to push financial responsibility for basic citizen services like health and education down to the local level, and then you use the power of the state to limit the funds that localities can collect and spend. You should be ashamed of yourself, trying to convince Texans that high property taxes are not caused by funding decisions made at the state level. Yet you fill yourself with righteous indignation, the indignation of the privileged who blame the less fortunate for their own lack of privilege.</p> <p>I watched you do all you could to remove the power of local cities to guarantee the fair and humane treatment of blue collar workers, and it was a bitter pill when you succeeded in denying a few measly hours of sick leave a year to workers who are at the mercy of greedy companies who profit mightily from their labor.</p> <p>My husband has worked for more than twenty years as an oiler and hazardous materials driver in the construction industry in Austin. For most of that time he worked 6 and sometimes 7 days a week so that I could stay home and raise our three children. The first company he worked for, J.C. Evans, declared bankruptcy and absconded with workers' retirement money. The State of Texas did nothing. Then he worked for Texas Sterling, where he was treated decently in large part because Texas Sterling filled federal contracts that included mandatory standards for the treatment of workers. For the last few years he has worked for CC Carlton Industries, a locally owned company that treats its workers, particularly its brown-skinned workers like my husband, like dirt. In all the years he worked for CC Carlton driving a hazardous materials fuel truck, he never had a single paid day of sick leave. This meant that if he got the flu, he would have to either drive while ill or forfeit pay. Did I mention that he drives a hazardous materials fuel truck? And in 21st century Texas, he was actually lucky because he was a legal immigrant. Most of Carlton's workers are undocumented, as is the case throughout the Texas construction industry. This means that they are subject to an ongoing range of deprivations, dangers, and exploitation while the good ole boys who run the company make millions. It seems to be the Texas way. So save me your indignation, your self-righteous fury at this poor municipality that is trying, with its hands tied behind its back, to find humane solutions to problems that other bigger institutions, like the state of Texas, have culpability in helping to create, a responsibility in joining to address, but a cowardly and ideological unwillingness to acknowledge either.</p> <p>You, sir, are a phony and a cynical, lying manipulator who extracts blood and cash from the labor of Texas working people. It is my dearest hope that the people of Texas wake up to the shameful legacy of "leaders" of your ilk.</p> <p>Most sincerely,</p> <p>Lois M. Smith</p>
Mrs. Nancy L Smith	7/12/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>If you do not step in, the city of Austin is going to be ruined. The last two years have been a nightmare of having to watch our south Austin neighborhood near Ben White and Manchaca turn into a homeless camp. When you see a full-grown man defecating on the sidewalk at the bottom of a pillar holding up the highway, and he is doing this in what looks like a landfill with at least a dozen full shopping carts, tarp tents, clothes all over the sidewalk and blowing into the road, WHAT ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO DO? The city of Austin makes it impossible to lodge a complaint or rid our neighborhoods of this. In San Diego, dozens of people have DIED from hepatitis that is spread by the homeless. This has been confirmed and published. AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL WAS INSANE TO HAVE NOT ONLY NOT STOPPED THIS, BUT ALLOWED IT! I am a desperate constituent. Please help.</p> <p>Nancy</p>
Mrs. Pam Smith	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott, thank you for your efforts to address the deterioration of our beloved Austin community! Of course, we all want to end homelessness but the steps the Austin City Council has taken — or refuses to take — are ruining our beautiful city! It's beyond heartbreaking and we very much appreciate your willingness to step up and try to restore and preserve the safety and beauty of our home! Providing safe places for people to reside does not have to entail allowing, in fact encouraging, the sleeping, camping and eliminating of human waste in front of homes and businesses! Our city is encouraging unsafe activities so that businesses will have to take a gander and step up? That's insanity! Thank you for your efforts!</p>

Ms. Audie R Snyder	7/8/2019	Austin	<p>Greetings to all,</p> <p>This is in reference to the City of Austin's Council attempts to repeal all the ordinances for the homeless population. I am TOTALLY opposed to this and believe 100% that Governor Abbott's position is the right one. Otherwise, Austin will go the way of Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle which are deteriorating to a point that people are moving out. Please keep fighting for us as our way of life and safety depends on it.</p> <p>Another issue that I'd like the Governor's Office to investigate is the City Council's rush deal to purchase an office building at 1112 W Ben White Blvd for the purpose of establishing a 100 bed homeless shelter. In my opinion this deal was struck months ago behind closed doors and without any input from the community. The residential area is overwhelmingly opposed to this location and it's within walking distance of 2 elementary schools. In addition the City Council voted to pay \$8.6 million for a building that is appraised at only \$3.6 million. So why is someone being paid \$5 million dollars over the value of the property? This sounds like corruption. Please investigate this and take whatever appropriate actions to prevent it.</p> <p>The growing Democratic Socialist control of our beautiful city is placing its citizens at risk and causing the city harm. Thank you for listening.</p> <p>Genuinely, A Ray Snyder</p>
Ms. Susan Soderstrom	7/12/2019	Austin	<p>I live in Travis County, not Austin proper.</p> <p>I'm in a Burger King yesterday (7/10) and am politely approached by a homeless man who asks me to give him \$5 for a chicken sandwich. "No." He explains he's never had one before and would like to try one. I ignore him.</p> <p>I am 65, 5'5", 140 lbs. He is probably in 30's, 6', 230 lbs. Because he's whispering, he's pretty darn close. Was he was trying to intimidate me? Don't know. But I didn't like it.</p> <p>Hate the new ordinance. Hate it. Hate it. Hate it.</p>
Mr. ray I soffes Stacy Solis	10/4/2019 10/3/2019	crosby McAllen	<p>please stop Austin's policy for the homeless we do not want our state to end up like the trashy democratic of California</p> <p>Thank you Governor Abbott for your letter to the Austin Mayor and thank you for acting in this very serious and danger condition that Austin is now in. As the parent of a UT student who lives in West Campus, I am concerned about the conditions and the safety in West Campus this year. The "camping" ordinance enacted by the city has made West Campus much more dangerous than it was previously. Please, please follow through with your letter's commitment to act if Austin doesn't. Thank you, Stacy Solis.</p>
Mrs. Tiffany Sowersby	7/15/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Please call a special session and override the Austin city council and our inept mayor's choice on the homeless crisis my beautiful city is in the midst of. It seems the vast majority of Austinites didn't want this and the council and mayor didn't care about our voice. I am a 38 year old, female, mother, wife, and business owner. For the first time I felt unsafe at my place of business yesterday when I arrived to a homeless man sleeping in front of my salon. It stopped me in my tracks and scared me. My 11 year old son comes to my salon all the time with me...what if he was there? More rights are being giving to the homeless than the tax paying, hard working citizens. Thank you for calling attention to San Antonio's Haven for Hope program. Rhode Island has the MAT program which has also been wildly successful. There are more intelligent and successful ways to solve homelessness. Instead our Mayor is out wasting tax payer dollars flying to cities that have failed miserably when he could have driven an hour and a half south from Austin to get his "learning" done. Please save us from ourselves. You have my vote in 2020 and maybe even for president in 2024 if you help us. We need strong leadership right and I know you are the man for the job!! Thank you, Tiffany Sowersby</p>
Mrs. Cathey Spies	9/5/2019		<p>Sir,</p> <p>I realize the homeless people camping out on the streets of Austin is considered a local problem for Austin, but for Pete's sake, don't let Austin turn into another Los Angeles or San Francisco.</p> <p>I implore you to use any influence you have with the city's governing body to stem this growing problem.</p> <p>The state is watching how this situation is playing out. Many of us fear the city government is not taking the citizens' concerns seriously but is, instead, making decisions based on board members' own personal political agendas.</p> <p>I don't live in Austin, but as a proud Texas citizen, my heart breaks for the citizens of that great city and ultimately the state. What can be done?</p> <p>I look forward to your timely response.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cathey Spies</p>

Mr. Grant R Stanis	10/3/2019	Plano	<p>Governor Abbott - Thank you so much for taking action against the City of Austin and their endangering of all of us with their homeless crisis. I am sure people complain often to you, so I wanted to reach out to share my appreciation. On behalf of my wife, thank you! On behalf of my daughter, thank you!</p> <p>Respectfully, Grant</p>
Mrs. Michele Starkloff	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Hello Governor Abbott, Im afraid this letter will fall on deaf ears but I felt the need to write anyway. I just saw your FB post about Austin. And my first reaction is that it was filled with hatred and fear, not leadership. I don't know what the answer is to the homeless problem in Austin but I do know a little compassion goes a long way. I took a 4 mile walk through downtown to get to our library yesterday from my home and I never felt in danger or disgusted. I'm glad to see our city attempting to try somethings. Maybe it will need to be adjusted and tweaked but the force you talk about in getting involved just seems divisive. We have enough of that in our country. Maybe you and Adler could pool resources and work on this issue. Listen to each other instead of threaten us. That's leadership. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Michele</p>
Mrs. Amanda M Stautzenberger	9/17/2019	Austin	<p>The homelessness situation has gotten extremely bad in Northwest Austin (Hwy 183 & Braker Lane) area. There have been several instances of homeless people messing with our homes and vehicles at night. There is an absurd amount of garbage on our streets and in the grass on our highways. It is getting out of control. Now there is a grotesque amount of trash in our public areas. It is making Austin an ugly city. This should not be acceptable and we should hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards.</p>
Mr. Roland V Stautzenberger	9/16/2019	Austin	<p>The homelessness situation has gotten extremely bad in Northwest Austin (Hwy 183 & Braker Lane area). There have been several instances of homeless people messing with our homes and vehicles at night. There is an absurd amount of garbage on our streets and in the grass on our highways. It is getting out of control. I was born and raised in Austin, TX and it USED to be a beautiful city with respectful people. Now there is a grotesque amount of trash in our public areas. It is making Austin an ugly city. This should not be acceptable and we should hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards.</p>
Mr. ray stephany	9/23/2019	austin	<p>Governor Abbott:</p> <p>I am a registered republican and a current resident in north west Austin. I would like to ask for your help with a recent issue here in Austin.</p> <p>As you are aware, the Austin city council recently relaxed the restrictions on public camping. As expected this has resulted in the spread of "tent cities" around the city. Of particular concern to my family are the proliferation of encampments on or around the underpasses along 183 in north west Austin. My sons have been accosted by some of the folks sitting in the encampments, fear for their safety, and, as a result, are hesitant to go near them. In addition, the encampments are an eye sore and their residents seem to litter at will.</p> <p>My family realizes that there is a real homeless issue here in Austin and in the US in general. I don't claim to have a solution to this problem - but I can unequivocally say that the recent relaxing of the camping restrictions is NOT helping solve this problem; it's just creating additional problems and limiting what our local police force can do to keep our city safe and clean.</p> <p>We have called 311, APD and talked to our councilman - all to no avail.</p> <p>Is there something that can be done at your end to help bring back our public camping restrictions? Austin is our state capitol and, in many respects, represents Texas as a whole to the rest of the world.</p> <p>thank you for your consideration</p> <p>ray stephany</p>
Mr. Jack Stinnett	7/15/2019	McKinney	<p>Governor Greg Abbott</p> <p>Sanctuary Steve Adler can take his California welfare plea of taxpayers money and shove-it! He created Austin's homeless crisis he can fix it!</p>
Mr. Jack Stinnett	7/29/2019	McKinney	<p>Sanctuary Steve Adler should not be Austin, Texas mayor, you should remove him from the position of mayor.</p> <p>Sanctuary Steve Adler has brought disease to Austin, TX.</p> <p>You think it is bad now... wait 30 days, it gets worse.</p> <p>Austin's City leadership should be removed from their positions they have caused a serious public health hazard, Austin, TX. should be quarantined.</p> <p>https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2019/03/typhus-tuberculosis-medieval-diseases-spreading-homeless/584380/</p> <p>http://www.fox7austin.com/news/local-news/it-s-a-health-risk-officer-voices-concerns-over-rats-he-encountered-at-travis-county-jail</p>

Mr. Jack Stinnett	8/27/2019	McKinney	<p>Gov Greg Abbott, Sanctuary Steve Adler's homeless in Austin, A total disaster, Sanctuary Steve and city council has created a real public health hazard problem and it is obvious they DO NOT have a solution. They must be held criminally responsible. http://www.fox7austin.com/news/local-news/homeless-camps-at-gillis-park-draw-concern</p>
Mr. Jack Stinnett	10/3/2019	McKinney	<p>Governor Greg Abbott, Sanctuary Steve Adler is a threat and danger to The City of Austin's public health and safety. Sanctuary cities are ILLEGAL in Texas. Why has he not been removed from the office of "mayor"? Or, why do YOU allow "mayors" of sanctuary cities to break the law? Citizens are in direct danger because sanctuary cities. https://www.fox7austin.com/news/governor-abbott-pens-open-letter-demands-austin-city-council-address-the-homeless-crisis</p>
Ms. Courtney N Stoker	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott, I read your statement about homelessness in Austin. I live there and work downtown. Adler's generous interpretation of your statement aside, you should be ashamed of yourself. Criminalizing homelessness and pushing homeless people out of the public eye (but not helping them) is inhumane bullshit. Don't punish Austin for refusing to be cruel toward poor people. Don't come in on your white horse to save us from the poors; they are as much a part of Austin (and your constituency) as I am. What makes middle-class and rich people comfortable should not dictate policy. What makes *you* comfortable sure as hell shouldn't. I know I won't convince you to be humane and have compassion. That's a lost cause. But maybe actually stick to your alleged commitment to small government and keep the state government OUT of our local politics. Austinites have the right to determine who governs them, and they definitely didn't pick you. Don't threaten our mayor and don't threaten our city just because you have to see some poor people on your way to work. Get over yourself, Courtney Stoker</p>
Mr. Zach D Stone	9/26/2019	Austin	<p>I am a person who was formerly homeless. Since then, I have been employed by 3 non-profits in Austin, The Salvation Army, Foundation communities, and Caritas of Austin. I am now retired, so I represent only myself. I am a Texas Certified Recovery Support Peer Specialist, and a Texas Certified Mental Health Peer Specialist. I have worked within and with the homeless, addicted, and mentally ill for a total of 7 years. What is happening at this time in Austin is damaging to our community. Letting the homeless do as they wish is creating a backlash. Austinites are generous people, but this current mess is disgusting, and some people are deciding to hold back their donations. We are not an attractive place for businesses any longer. This is not a safe city to live in any more. I did not vote for any of the current city council members, or Mayor Adler. This is looking like LA or San Francisco. Please help us in any way that your office allows. We want our city back. Send a team down to 7th and Neches so that they can observe the area near the ARCH and the downtown office of Caritas of Austin. Let them report back to you. If any of your staff would like contact me, they are free to do so. Sending an email is better for the initial contact. Thank you!</p>
Mr. Chuck Strasburg	10/7/2019		<p>I appreciate your efforts to try and train Mayor Moonbeam Adler about fixing homeless. He is clueless and I'm sick of hearing it every night on the news. Turn up the heat. Thanks.</p>
Mr. Noah M Strohacker	8/27/2019	Austin MPH	<p>Governor Abbott, the homeless problem in Austin is out of control and the misguided changes the city has made to allow camping in public spaces have exponentially worsened the problem. I am writing to offer my support for you to intervene and stop the liberal policies of city officials from destroying our capital city. There isn't a day that goes by where I don't see blight and people passed out on the sidewalk or yelling at the sky as I drive by on my daily commute into downtown Austin. I have expressed my concerns to my city council member and Mayor Adler, but I know it will fall on deaf ears. The problem gets worse by the day and the residents of Austin need your intervention so we do not end up like Los Angeles of San Francisco.</p>
Dr. James Strong	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for coming to the aid of Austin citizens on the homeless issue. One other point: trash. Not downtown, not West campus. The city ordinances let homeless people camp under overpasses like Hwy. 183. Then the trash and litter blow down the access roads. But when we call the city to request clean up, we're told that is the STATE'S job! This "passing the buck" means our roads stay a mess. We used to be such a clean city!! Please address this clean up problem, too. Thank you. Jim Strong, M.D.</p>

Mr. Ronald L Taylor	10/3/2019	Governor Abbott - I just read an article titled "Gov. Abbott warns Austin to settle homelessness problem, or state will step in". Thank you!!! We do not want Texas to turn into another California. It made me want to let you know that my wife and I agree with EVERYTHING you do for our great state of Texas. We love you, and we pray for you. God bless you!
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Teel	10/4/2019	Austin Dear Governor Abbott, I want to congratulate you on taking a firm action on getting rid of the homeless and illegal immigration here in Austin, who are camping on our streets. We are very concerned that Mayor Adler is turning Austin into San Francisco. The homeless need to work, not get free hand outs, or leave and go somewhere else! Kind regards, Dr's Mary Ann and Gene Teel
Ms. Kim Temple	8/26/2019	Austin Concerns about the homeless problem in Austin. After the city council vote I have noticed and increase in homelessness, trash and camp outs in my neighborhood. I am concerned about the city council decision and hope that the homeless can receive the correct assistance to get them off the streets instead of encouraging them. I am afraid of becoming the next San Francisco. Please help keep Austin great. Thank you!
Mrs. Currie M Terry	8/22/2019	Austin Good Morning, We used to have a nice neighborhood. We pay very high taxes and now it's full of trash and tents. Please get the homeless off 183 underpasses and out of our parks and bushes. They are not paying taxes, helping others or cleaning up after themselves. Please don't let our city turn into Portland or San Francisco! Thank you, Currie Terry
Ms. Kara Thibault	10/3/2019	Austin Governor Abbott, I want to send my thanks to you for addressing Austin's failure to successfully handle the homeless crisis and your commitment to taking care of it. I typically consider myself a bit more left-leaning, but I am looking forward - and will vote accordingly - to some conservative policies that will clean up this city. I grew up in Portland, OR and every now and then I will return only to find an unrecognizable city. After they passed the laws that allowed for tent cities, it has become a shadow of its former self. I am a young professional in Austin and my frustration with the current homeless crisis is either met with grumbled comments of agreement, or people who think that I'm being insensitive. Governor, I do not think that I am being insensitive by decrying the abhorrent conditions seen around Austin. I went to university in Boston and feel very comfortable around homeless populations and "city living." However, the current state of Austin far surpasses that and it's the first time I've ever felt unsafe in an American city. The streets are littered with trash, sleeping bags, mattresses, makeshift compounds, etc. I went downtown a few weeks ago for the first time in a while and I was SHOCKED. I won't be going back down there - it's not worth it. That doesn't even address my outrage that my clean street fee is going up - I know that I certainly am not the one contributing to the growing trash issue. The Austin Mayor and city council have come up with a non-solution to a big problem. This is their way of saying "we don't know how to fix this issue/we want more money, so we're just going to throw our hands up in terms of law and order." It's lazy at best and reckless at worst. REAL solutions are needed for the homeless population in Austin; the major one being drug and addiction treatment. Anecdotally, I know that the majority of the homeless individuals I come in contact with are suffering from addiction. I've tried to hire several of them and it's backfired. Throwing addicts and mentally unstable individuals into makeshift cities where there is ZERO accountability for their degradation of the city is irresponsible and negligent. The Mayor and council have created a hunger games-style scenario where Austin residents are forced to self-police each other over public safety and cleanliness. They have failed EVERY Austin resident with their lack of action and their indifference. I want to extend my full vote of support and thanks as you tackle this issue with a no-tolerance stance. I wanted to provide my own account as a young Austin citizen and I hope that you help the city find real solutions to this problem. It would be foolish for any of us to suggest that individual cases of mental health problems and addiction in our community doesn't affect us all. Indeed, we are seeing just how much it does when left unchecked.

Mrs. Andrea Thomas	9/5/2019	Austin	<p>PLEASE step in and help the hard working tax paying citizens of Austin and do something about the homeless! The mayor and the city council are not listening and will totally allow our beautiful capital city be ruined right before your eyes. I have attended the town halls and they go no where. Adler, Kitchens and Casar are not interested in listening to the valid concerns of residents. They are only concerned with making the homeless situation worse so that they can get more money. Adler out right called people liars about reports being made. He had the audacity to speak poorly about the police. They dodge questions and ignore concerns. I beg you, look at the following Facebook pages (please pardon the titles), Seattle Looks Like Shit, Chico Looks Like Shit, Portland Looks Like Poop, Sacramento Looks Like Shit...and there are more! Please watch the documentary 'Seattle is Dying'. Austin is on the fast track to being just like these cities. PLEASE - HELP US!!!</p>
Mrs. Ann Thompson	8/20/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbot</p> <p>I urge you to push Austin travis county to reconsider the homeless camping. I come from San Francisco and have seen first hand the problem with leniency with the homeless. They become very aggressive and the trash and fecal matter become a big problem. Driving away customers and tourists. I love Texas because you don't put up with this type of rediculousness. Thank you</p>
Mr. Richard E Thompson	10/3/2019	Georgetown	<p>Here's a suggestion, Governor, for the homelessness problem. Why not relax the law and tell all your gun-toting Bubbas to shoot the homeless? Declare open season on anyone sleeping on a sidewalk or under a bridge! That'll solve the problem and help businesses at the same time, since they can sell lots of guns and ammo knowing that there will be no penalty. I'm surprised that no one on your staff came up with this--it seems to be something you or they would have come up with immediately. I'm sure your hero trump would agree and be fully supportive, as well.</p>
Mrs. Tracy B Thronburg	8/20/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott:</p> <p>I am a 51-year-old native Austinite.</p> <p>Please help us.! The camping ordinance passed by the idiotic Austin City Council must be overturned.</p> <p>Austin is quickly becoming a cesspool of devastation.</p> <p>You are our only hope!</p> <p>Thank you for all that you do for our great state. I don't want Austin to become like Los Angeles, San Francisco, or Seattle.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Your constituent,</p> <p>Tracy Becker Thronburg</p>
Mr. Jason N Tibolt	8/15/2019	Austin	<p>I just called APD about a man in a hospital gown smoking drugs. I stayed on the phone with the dispatch until police arrived. While on the phone he walked into the woods behind my apartment. Once police arrived I pointed out where he went the 2 officers just shined their lights around for less than 2 minutes and left. Why did I even waste my time calling the police? Something needs to be done about the homeless problem in Austin the homeless have more rights than the people paying to live here. Please help it's getting out of control</p>
Dr. Paul Tucker Mr. Leslie Tull	7/15/2019 10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Please fix the ridiculous homeless law in Austin. This MUST NOT STAND.</p> <p>Re: The Homeless</p> <p>Your new threats to the City of Austin about how they are dealing with homelessness are a perfect example of Republican hypocrisy. You say what Austin has done - decriminalize homelessness - is bad. That "some businesses" and "some people" have issues because of this. Yet you don't recognize that the real problem is that more and more people in Texas are homeless and truly suffering. Some of these homeless suffer mental issues that the state has dumped on local governments, and many others live on the edge of poverty in a state that has become increasingly unaffordable and where the state has done nothing to provide appropriate support. Where are the Christian values you espouse? Shouldn't a government based on those values doing more to help those in need? Rather than criticize, tell us your plan to deal with homelessness on a statewide basis. Or, do you not have one? Would you rather attack those that choose to help the poor and weak? Would you really send Texas troopers to toss people out of their camps? Where would they go? What are your true values?</p>
Kristen Ude	7/8/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott, I saw your tweet from June 2019 saying you would override the local ordinance passed in Austin which allows camping on city streets and city property. Please take action. Everyday this goes unimpeded, hundreds of more people are affected negatively, both the homeless people and the tax-paying residents and businesses. Murder at 5th and Congress the other day. We can not delay. Thank you.</p>

Mrs. Karon Valentine	7/16/2019	Forney	<p>Governor Abbott,</p> <p>As a concerned citizen I need to ask what is being done in regards to tents popping up on the streets of Austin. I mean have you talked to the mayor. Is it immigrants, or homeless citizens, what? I'd hate to see Texas turn into LA. I'm so ashamed of Texas right now and what an embarrassment for our proud state. Please respond. I voted for you and believe in you. Help me understand what in the world is going on.</p> <p>God bless you, Concerned Texan</p>
Mr. William Valentine	7/12/2019	sulphur springs	<p>Downtown Dallas Texas is the perfect role model for future extreme economic failure, with out of control homeless people flocking to it as a homeless protective sanctuary, just like immigrant at the border. They even use Uber scooters with their SSI to stalk the elderly in hopes to rob, and injure. 7-11 promotes homelessness hiring them to do tasks for cash, provided they are willing to claim themselves a new Islam religous convert who advocates gang rival exchanging murder for drugs. Dallas will soon slurp up all the water surrounding it's Downtown that has very little police presence, and more garbage than Harlem. Due to my age I can't go Downtown without expecting extreme adversity. Maybe you can make a suggestion since in reality a parliament isn't a real government.</p>
Mrs. Emily M Velin	9/9/2019	Georgetown	<p>Dear Governor: Please step in and overrule the foolish Mayor of Austin. Wanted to have a morning out and we parked at the Convention Center Parking at 2nd and San Jacinto...homeless and excrement on the street. Big camp set up as you come out of the parking lot to walk to 2nd. Now why is this being tolerated, why is it "right" and what can "we the people" do about it? Do you think people coming to ATX to a convention want to see this? Have you been down Ben White lately? Like hotels are being set up...couches, mattresses..you name it. This thinking just has to stop. Austin is great city but "great" only goes so far. When people pay ungodly sums to stay at high end hotels only to have to walk out to filth...well, they will never return. Businesses do not benefit from this. Parents do not want to bring their young kids down...I mean, come on?</p> <p>Homeless needs to be dealt with...detention centers that offer like skills and retraining... Regards</p>
Ms. Cathy I Veri	9/30/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott:</p> <p>I have heard two credible stories about bussing homeless people to Austin from Los Angeles and Portland. A bus full of homeless was dropped off at the Cavenders at Ben White and 290.</p> <p>Friends of mine said they have a relative in Portland who witnessed a bus with a sign that says "Austin TX" and I believe this to be true.</p> <p>You need to step up and undo this public camping nonsense. It's absurd we are allowing this and allowing Adler to ruin our city. Please call session or executive order or whatever you can do. I have a kid at UT and she should not have to walk by this trash and be fearful some insane person is going to attack her.</p> <p>The homeless need to get mental help, get assisted housing, find a friend or maybe go back to work and become part of society. Adler is not being logical. He wants Austin to turn into LA.</p> <p>Please do something before something awful happens. I loved Austin and now, it is getting wrecked by these stupid decisions.</p> <p>You can do something. Take a stand. Don't wait for the Supreme Court. Austin is now a bio hazard.</p> <p>Please do something now. Be a leader for the whole country on this topic.</p> <p>Sincerely, Cathy and Tony Veri</p>
Miss Amy L Verlander	7/30/2019	Austin	<p>Please do something about the homeless situation. These people are not from here and have become a real problem. My boyfriend and I were verbally accosted in our vehicle yesterday by a man that was at our window and it looked as if he was gonna be physical. I called APD to report it, but couldn't remember what he was wearing. I saw him on the way home and called the police back to tell them what he was wearing and his location. The dispatcher said,"ok, your call was about panhandling?" This indicates to me that the city is not interested in protecting its citizens when the complaint is categorized as panhandling!! I never even used that word..but thats how APD avoids dealing with this overwhelming situation..avoidance.</p> <p>The GREAT STATE OF TEXAS is being turned into a toilet. These people are being brought here to overwhelm cities and turn us blue because of the liberal, bleeding heart left...its got to stop.</p> <p>Sincerely, Amy Verlander</p>

Mr. James G Villegas 6/25/2019 Austin

Governor, I am deeply sadden to see what has become of South Austin. I have lived in South Austin my entire life. As a kid I could walk down to Congress and Ben White and catch the bus to go to the mall. Now with the explosion of the homeless population, I fear for my child's safety anywhere near that area. He is not allowed to go to the nearby park or go eat at the Wendy's or McDonald's nearby. Getting gas at one of the stations there has to become almost a tactical operation to keep a lookout as aggressive panhandlers come out to ask for money. I have seen street fights, drug use, alcohol use, etc...out in the open. My wife works at a restaurant nearby and they have had multiple incidents with the homeless population. At Bedichek Middle School the homeless openly sleep by the sidewalk and harass kids walking to school. We are being held captive in our homes by the aggressive homeless, the city council and other outside influences. I ask as a Texan, please send help in anyway possible. I do not believe the situation is hopeless. That is not who we are as Texans. I am proud of my state and my city. This is not San Francisco or Seattle. This is Austin, TEXAS! Please do not use my real name if this letter goes public. I appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Mrs. Jackque R Vogel 7/19/2019 Fort Worth

Sir: I am a white - senior/age 75 - female - native Texan - living with my husband in Fort Worth. I am concerned about the homeless epidemic that seems to be destroying many once beautiful major cities in CA, NY and CO. I do not want our - the major cities in Texas - to fall to any similar fate. It concerns me that many liberals, who have moved into Texas from these states did - in fact - bring their destructive social and economic policies with them. There is no way that the rats in California - and/or New York - are going to stay there ... they will be in trucks and trains and personal vehicles criss-crossing this nation ... bringing with them plagues not seen since the middle ages. There is no way to contain "air-born" disease. Filth is just that ... FILTH! We do not need - or want - it in Texas. I have seen on television the newly approved allowances for the homeless in Austin. How can anyone see this as a kindness? It is enabling the homeless to exist in "non-human" environments. Animals do not sleep in their own excrement. It strips away their dignity, self-worth, and any degree or sense of personal pride and accomplishment that they may have had. I am strongly in favor of a policy of "go to work ... or ... go away" for Texas. There are plenty of "Sanctuary" cities who have voiced their desires to have these people ... offer them a one-way ticket to the city of their choice ... put them on a "state" bus ... label, pack and put their possessions in a truck following the bus and take them where ever they want to go. Or if they choose, we can find these people places to stay ... a place to bath and brush their teeth - common hygiene necessities ... a few work clothes until they get a pay check or two. If they are physically and mentally able to work - then they should work ... we can find them jobs ... picking up highway trash is a job ... it should be their choice ... this should not be a thing where they have an endless amount of time ... 90 days should be sufficient. We are willing to help ... but we should not be willing to destroy Texas for the next generation. Unlike the Left-wing who professes that everything is "free" ... in Texas we know and understand that nothing is free! We still believe you get what you earn. We believe in the American dream. Our word when given still means something. We do NOT believe that the end justifies the means. We believe it does matter if you lie, cheat, steal or simply destroy another person, his/her family or career for your own personal gain or power. WE remain people of integrity - personal honor - and self worth. We can not allow the hypocrisy and hate which embodies liberal policy and practice to continue in Texas. We Love Texas ... they don't ... we will fight to save her ... I believe we must begin now. So let the homeless choose ... go to work ... or go away ... it is that simple. We will - of course -find a way to help those who can not help themselves but they will not be living in filth on a street, under an over-pass or in a public park ... we may need to utilize state schools or facilities and should be entitled to some form of federal monetary reimbursement for their care ... alas ... another source of potential jobs. Well ... that's what I think . Thank you ... JR

Dr. Deborah J Vollmer 10/7/2019 Austin
Dahlke

Dear Governor Abbott:

As a citizen of Austin and a public health professional, I want to express my sincere thanks and enthusiasm for your strong stance regarding cleaning up the squalor, misery and disease and drug use that are a result of the Mayor of Austin and the City Council's choice to tolerate and encourage vagrancy and drug use on our streets and in our neighborhoods.

By putting the rights of the homeless above those of our businesses, our children and our neighborhoods, the mayor and the city council have encouraged the trashing of our streets and roadways. It is not just an embarrassment, it is a public health hazard that has all the potential of resulting in a higher incidence of typhus, Hepatitis A and even leprosy if we examine the health hazards that exist now in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Austin is likely not far behind. As one drives through Austin, it is not just the encampments that overflow with trash, but the windblown paper and plastic that are now littering our streets and sidewalks. One asks, what happened to "Don't mess with Texas?"

And, there is the clear fact that the homeless are not congregating in the higher class neighborhoods and are legally forbidden to camp on City of Austin property. Rather, they congregate near where their problems likely began, in the lower-income neighborhoods. Is it compassionate that the children in these neighborhoods be more exposed to drug use and the misery of seeing homeless men and women camping and tending their bundles of belongings? The images and actions of the homeless are not pleasant nor compliant with what we consider civic norms. I have seen women having bowel movements beneath city street lights. This is not just disturbing, but a clear source of disease transmission. Austin is not a 3rd world country...but there are areas that appear similar. We see the homeless begging with their pets, hopefully, vaccinated against rabies and distemper, but who knows? Our compassion is present for these individuals, but also our anger.

Tolerating vagrancy and likely drug use and criminality for a class of victims such as the homeless in Austin is not a compassionate or beneficial action. It is destructive to our community values and quality of life. As a nation and a state we pride ourselves on our ability to respond to disasters. This is one and again, we thank you for your call to action against the Mayor and Austin City Council. What can be done? Why not take a disaster approach and create a homeless campus similar to those we create for disaster areas. A place where people can live in tents with clean toilets and showers and also have self-responsibility to keep their own areas and the camp clean with jobs and shared responsibility. Doesn't the city have land somewhere that could be used for this?

I know there are no fast, easy, or inexpensive answers to the problems of homelessness. But the answer that the City of Austin chose is the wrong one. Hopefully, you and your administration will set them on a better path. Thank you again.

Terry Wakefield 8/14/2019 Austin

Dear Governor Abbot,

Please override Austin City Council's decision to make it legal for homeless to camp in public areas. What is so hard about merely observing places like San Francisco, LA, Seattle, etc.? These types of solutions are hard proven failures and costly, disastrous experiments! It is not a solution to the problem; it will only worsen the situation and create a whole host of new issues alongside it.

Mrs. Kelley Wallace 10/2/2019 Austin

Thank you so much for doing something about the homeless issue in Austin that has gotten out of control. Mayor Adler is not acting on the best interest of the people of Austin. I am so grateful that you are not going to let Austin become a trash dump. Sincerely, Kelley Wallace

Mr. Chris Warren 10/3/2019 Austin

Thank you Governor for taking on Mayor Adler and the city council of Austin to eradicate the homeless crisis in our beautiful capital city.

Austin is quickly becoming little San Francisco because of liberal policy.

Keep your word and on Nov 1st take action. Make the conservatives in Texas proud we voted for you!

We support you 100%!

Chris Warren

Austin, Tx

Go Trump 2020! Keep Texas Great!

Ms. M Waters 7/10/2019 Conroe

What's going on in Austin? UT giving free tuition using The Permanent University Fund and the government allowing homeless to camp out almost anywhere on the streets? This is TEXAS not California, wake up and smell the coffee, do something about this before it goes to far. Also make sure the election process is not rigged in 2020 so we can win back the House. I personally know the machines would drop Cruz when voting straight ticket. Sounds like election tampering to me.

Mr. Joe Wavering	8/8/2019	Austin	<p>First, I want to thank you for your work for Texas.</p> <p>I feel that the Austin City Government is really acting immorally and unethically with the homeless problems that they have worked hard to exasperate. There are (at least two) groups of homeless people, single mothers and other displaced souls who desire and seek help. While more can always be done for this group, I feel that their needs are being addressed by many different non-profits and government agencies. Then there is the group that is just like you and me, but decide because of addiction, be it to alcohol, heroin, synthetic drugs, or whatever else, that they are going to drop out of normal society, and are only willing to beg, steal, and feed their addiction. They are not willing to stay at homeless shelters because those places have rules against bringing drugs. They instead make camps where they can. The City of Austin has set themselves up as a modern day landlord of opium dens, providing free places in the city for these groups to sleep and camp, and preventing our police forces from enforcing common sense rules for doing things that would get anyone arrested: drug use, defecating in public, litter, theft, harassment, intimidation, and violence. Why are there now two sets of enforcement for people in the city of Austin? Why is it unsafe for children down the street, to use parks, or other public facilities? How is this fair to tax paying citizens in the city? Now the city manager has announced a planned 11 percent tax increase to tax payers (8 percent immediate, with another 3 percent the following year) to pay for additional services to this group when it was their actions that created this problem. Enabling these behaviors is not helpful, ethical, or moral. Giving drug addicts a place to beg, sleep, and do drugs and telling them there is no legal consequences to their actions create more human suffering, both for residents of the city, and the homeless people themselves. Please help publicize this issue!</p>
Mrs. Kathleen Wazny	10/3/2019	Denton	<p>AUSTIN</p> <p>Thank you for stepping in to address the "out of control" homeless mess we're stuck with in Austin. Residents and business owners (tax payers) are fed up with the current situation here.</p> <p>HELP!!!!!!</p>
Mr. David C Weaver	8/21/2019	Austin	<p>Want to encourage Gov Abbott and let him know his has my full support to reverse the recent COA homeless policies and help us take back our city and make it safe and attractive to live, work and play. We are losing the battle. I've been to many cities including Seattle this year and Austin is the worse I've seen. Thank you</p>
Mr. Michael H Webber	8/19/2019	Leander	<p>Is there anything the state can do to remove the homeless from under state highway over passes in Austin? With the stupid city council letting them camp everywhere , it is an eyesore when driving around and seeing their camps under freeways. Sure wish you could do something.</p>
Mr. Kirk weddle	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor Abbott.</p> <p>I wanted to let you know that I appreciate your efforts to curtail the homeless encampments in Austin. I live in South Austin very close to the 71 overpasses and the situation is grim. My Mayor and City Counsel Person, care more about the homeless than they do about the taxpaying residents of Texas.</p> <p>Thank you, sir. Best, Kirk</p>
Ms. Carol J Welder	7/3/2019	Austin	<p>Governor Abbott, I am a native Texan and a resident of Austin for 52 years. Over the years, I have seen City Councils make decisions benefiting visitors more than tax paying citizens. I read that all of the events that happen almost every weekend will benefit those who live here, but my experience is that it just brings more people to an already overcrowded city.</p> <p>The main reason for my email is to ask for your help in overriding the latest homeless ordinance. This is really unbelievable and that allowing people to camp, sit, lay anywhere they want is just another example of not considering the hard-working, tax paying citizens first. This is not the answer to this issue. Being lax will only bring more homeless to the city. I have seen firsthand what lax laws have done in San Francisco, New York and Seattle. Please help our productive citizens.</p>
Mr. Brad B Wells	6/25/2019	PLANO	<p>I JUST HEARD ON TONIGHT'S NEWS THAT THE CITY OF AUSTIN HAS PASSED A LAW TO ALLOW HOMELESS TO SLEEP ON PUBLIC PROPERTY. THIS IS TERRIBLE AND SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED. I LIVE IN PLANO BUT I CANNOT BELIEVE ANY SENSIBLE GOVERNING BODY WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A MOVE. IT WILL ONLY DETERIORATE AUSTIN, BUT WILL IMPACT FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THAT AREA. THE HOMELESS NEEDS TO BE ADDRESSED BUT ALLOWING THEM TO SLEEP IN PUBLIC AREAS IS RIDICULOUS. THIS MADNESS NEEDS TO STOP NOT ONLY HERE BUT EVERYWHERE.</p>
Mr. Kerry J Wendell	7/10/2019	Spring Branch	<p>Sir,</p> <p>As the voice of our great State. Please tell me this ridiculousness in Austin is going to come to an end. Are we seriously going to allow the homeless to dictate what is and is not allowed in our State? So we are at a point of the few outweigh the need of the many? I can't imagine being a home owner in Austin and someone living on the sidewalk just because it's a public thoroughfare. We do not want to become San Francisco!!! If it starts in Austin, how long before it spreads State wide? Sir, get this s*** handled. Sorry for the cussing, just very upset.</p> <p>With respect, Kerry J. Wendell</p>

Mr. Doug Werner	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for weighing in on the homeless issue and Austin. The in action by our city Council is leading to the total degradation of a beautiful city.</p>
Mrs. Barbara Wheat	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you Governor for your letter to Mayor Adler regarding Austin's homeless crisis! I volunteer with Catholic Charities, CASA, and St. Austin's Catholic Church and I think Austin's current policy is horrible and having a very negative impact on our community. The current policy may sound "compassionate" in theory, but it is harming the homeless and all citizens of Austin. I drive by Cameron and Hwy 183 and have watched children walking home from school having to pass by a large homeless settlement. I am so afraid for these children because the homeless approach them. Some child is going to be injured if this situation is not stopped. My daughter worked downtown in the summer and I drove her to and from work because the parking garage had many homeless loitering there. Also, I have spoken to a young mother who was previously homeless and she worries that the homeless are in danger as well.</p>
Mr. Dan P Wheat	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>I so appreciate your taking action in this matter. I am in full support of you!!</p>
Mrs. Pat A Wheeler	6/25/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you for taking action on the homeless problem in Austin. I am so disappointed with our Mayor and City Council and am so thankful that you are stepping in to help solve the problem that they have created. Thank you again!</p> <p>I support Governor Abbott overriding Austin's new homeless ordinance. We agree homelessness is a problem but the city council is making the problem larger and safety and health concerns will also grow.</p> <p>We need the common sense from Gov. Abbott to override the council instead of letting this problem grow as Mayor Adler is willing to do. Thank you Gov Abbott</p>
Mrs. Pat A Wheeler	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you very much for your letter to the Mayor on homelessness. Allowing our city government ample time to tackle and fix their policy showed your patience and fairness. We are so looking forward to seeing the homelessness issue finally dealt with and making Austin safer, healthier and certainly more welcoming to people visiting. Most of all thank you from all the citizens of Austin.</p> <p>Appreciate all you do.</p> <p>Sincerely, Pat Wheeler</p>
Ms. Stacy Wheetley	10/7/2019	Austin	<p>To My Honorable Governor Abbott,</p> <p>Thank you for standing up to our horrible Mayor and City Council in Austin! They have failed to protect and serve their tax paying citizens. But yet allow trash and destruction and then in response, penalize their citizens by raising our taxes more to address it. But I AM TIRED....I AM TIRED of seeing tents and garbage everywhere in Austin, the city I once loved. I beg and plead that you also enforce to BAN PANHANDLING in AUSTIN and TEXAS too on November 1, 2019. Houston has done this and homelessness has decreased 60%.</p> <p>I AM TIRED of the Mayor and Council calling them all "homeless". Please recognize there are two types of people on the streets in Austin: 1. Vagrants and 2. True Homeless. Majority of them are just felon vagrants on the streets (who were bused in from their states or cities because Austin allows them to do what they want) they continue to stay in Austin because the money they make by panhandling affords them to stay on the streets in Austin and do the drugs every night...Tax Free.</p> <p>I AM TIRED of hearing of people being assaulted by them and children seeing them masturbate, urinate, and crap in the streets in public view (I witnessed this driving on 290 last week).</p> <p>I AM TIRED of not feeling safe with them next to my car when I'm at a light.</p> <p>I AM TIRED of their abusive language and disregard for other humans. Most don't want help or choose not to stay in shelters because they can't do drugs there.</p> <p>I AM TIRED of seeing animals being abused for them to use as bait or get money from people who feel sorry for their dogs. This all needs to stop! If they can't get money, they will move somewhere else where they can. I don't think any Texans want them to move to their cities either. Now if we reduce these vagrants and get back to the true homeless who are down on their luck, the homeless people could access the programs and safe shelters to get back on their feet again.</p> <p>I AM TIRED of this Mayor running his mouth and insulting his citizens by calling us names and politicizing this issue. This is not a Red or Blue issue, this a human issue! And don't let him fool you, he does not need any more money, he has stolen all of his tax payers money and done nothing but waste it.</p> <p>Enough is Enough Governor! Please don't allow this horrible Mayor and Council to continue to destroy our city. Please do what it takes to restore beauty and safety to our Texas capitol city it once was not long ago. Take Back Austin but please also Ban Panhandling too!</p> <p>I Support you Governor! Go Get 'Em!</p> <p>Sincerely, Stacy and many others who feel the same in Austin</p>

Ms. Alayna White	10/2/2019	Austin	<p>I would like to send you pictures from all over Austin, of the homeless going to the bathroom in the street, lying naked outside, having sex outside, and turning our entire town into a garbage dump! This all in just a few short months since Mayor Adler rescinded the camping ordinance! Austin is being ruined! This will be the end of our town if you don't step in and do something! You live here too, so this is okay with you? Soon they will be camping all around the Governor's mansion. We expect you to do the job you were elected to do, and the job we pay you to do! We pay you! And you are a Christian right? God is watching you! You are neglecting the people of Texas, and of Austin! Please call a special session immediately, or whatever you have to do to put the law back to normal in Austin, so the homeless don't turn the city into a garbage dump.</p>
Mr. Austin D White	9/5/2019	Houston	<p>Mr. Governor,</p> <p>I respectfully urge you to call a special session of the Legislature to address homelessness in Texas. We must end homelessness legalization and restore law and order in our cities, especially Austin, where I have family.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Ms. reina wiatt	7/15/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governor,</p> <p>Thanks to the Austin City Council's new "green light" policy allowing homeless persons and vagrants to set up encampments in public spaces, we are seeing the results in our parks and the hike-and-bike trail in Central Austin. Joggers have stopped the police on bicycle patrol and have asked them to remove the homeless from the trail and bridges and their response was that since the new law was passed, they are powerless to remove them from public easements and/or parks.</p> <p>Each day, our hike-and-bike trail is now awash in the trash, wine bottles, and other forms of filth left by these people. Yesterday, a tent was set up on the Pflugerville Bridge. If this situation is not dealt with soon, Austin is going to look like San Francisco or Los Angeles. As you are aware, the City Council (against the overwhelming feedback from the local neighborhood citizens) approved the expenditure of millions of taxpayer dollars to construct a new homeless shelter "to make the homeless more comfortable." The goal should be to put these people back to work, not to encourage more homeless persons to come to Austin so that they can live off the largess of hard-working taxpayers. Austin boasts of one of the lowest unemployment rates in the nation and there are many jobs available for non-skilled labor. Trimming trees, picking up trash, removing graffiti, and mowing lawns are just a few of the options and a portion of the wages can go to repaying the taxpayers back for the shelter.</p> <p>The City Council is not creating strategic goals to solve the homeless issue; rather they are creating a magnet to attract more homeless/vagrant persons to our city. Organizations like the Salvation Army have helped the homeless regain their independence and find them jobs for decades. In contrast, city-funded homeless shelters like the Arch shelter are avoided because of their danger to both the homeless and to others.</p> <p>My family once lived in San Francisco. It was a beautiful, clean city where people felt safe. Because of the local government's short-sighted policies, the city is now overrun with homeless and vagrants. A health study just published documented that all samples taken from every part of the city contained human feces. In Los Angeles, outbreaks of measles and Typhus are being reported. We cannot allow this to happen to Austin. Please work with the Congress to make our parks, easements, and bike trails safe again. Also, please utilize private and charitable organizations to put the homeless back to work. They have been far more successful than the City of Austin to address this issue.</p>

Ms. Nancy K Wilkins	9/11/2019	Elgin	<p>Taken from Take Back Austin Facebook - Adler is a crook and needs stopped. This is most likely what he is up to, all about getting \$\$ for each homeless person so City can then have hands on it. Plz read this from a poster. re: Austin Homeless issue.</p> <p>I applauded our mayor when he went to LA and Seattle to see how they were handling the homeless issue so he could come back to Austin with practical ideas on how to fix our issue.</p> <p>Then when he came back, and he decriminalized camping on the streets down town, I was flabbergasted because you can see articles and video after video of what's happened to LA and Seattle since they did so.</p> <p>When the local community basically got pissed and started immediately protesting, despite the local news doing their best to "fact" why the Mayor was in the right to instruct the police to leave the homeless alone, and the police responded with some support at first, and then came out strong against the Mayor ("stay in your own lane" -police) I couldn't fathom why the Mayor maintained this position.</p> <p>Town meetings, business owners showing videos of what's going on at ground zero, AND THEN proof that several towns are driving their homeless up to Austin and dropping them off, just seemed ridiculous.</p> <p>Then I met a man who works for Block by Block (I actually met one guy as a customer, and then he referred his boss who is a supervisor for this organization he enlightened me). His job is several fold. They basically clean up after the homeless, and try to minister to them, and tell them specifically where they can go for help. They tell them how to get off the street, what benefits they can get, who will help them get replacement ID's, where to get a bed, etc. They know the In's & Out's of how it all works because they are coming out of the system as rehabbed felons.</p> <p>Now the meat of my long post. This person explained to me succinctly that this entire homeless issue could be solved but that they don't want it solved. They hold the issue up to the public to get money, they make laws/policies to keep it going (to get more money), and every time the money comes in, the city puts their hand into the til. It's a cash cow for the city and the issue plays on the heart strings of the masses. He cited to me the amount of money that came in and how much that was per person in just this last year. The amount per person was extreme. He cited how the city used the homeless issue as a reason to get another 40 police officers per year for the next 5 years, and other reasoning's to spend more money because of the issue. He went to great length to break it down for me. He could explain the money trail and when related to what I know about how all the millions collected in Seattle with little to no over-sight (and how it continues by a corrupt city council), I now fully see how the scam of the tax payer is being perpetrated to get more tax money that is being used to line the pockets that have nothing to do with fixing the homeless problem. I hope people in Austin get their vote right. The mayor here is a sweet talking, politician who has really shown his real colors as of late.</p>
Mr. Doyle Williamson	8/22/2019	Austin	<p>Governor, I am long-time resident of Austin Texas and have been a conservative republican since voting for Regan in 1984. I am seeing a very disturbing trend since the City Council of Austin allowed vagrants to openly campaign public places. They have not only come out of the local woodwork but are expanding their panhandling to all the outskirt cities and suburbs. I witness charities not actively handing out water and delivering food which is just enabling the homeless to keep doing what they are doing. tax money is not being used to build facilities for the homeless. This will not work. I see the homeless harassing people at intersections, acting out their mental illnesses and drug use and have even seen individuals fighting and walking in the streets. This is not a safe environment for me, my family, my business or the homeless. The council needs to reign in this new law and I'm afraid your office may need to step in if they don't.</p> <p>I have always loved Austin even though it's become overrun with people, mostly out of staters. I have only recently considered leaving Austin due to the explosive growth, loss of character and trending poor attitudes of the new transplants. However, this homeless crisis is proving Austin governs like San Francisco. Texas can not allow that to happen. Please help.</p>
HOLLY F WILLIAMSON Mrs. Patti Wilson	10/7/2019	CEDAR PARK	<p>My Idea for the Homeless. We need a Campground. Area . like the KOA (campground) with pathways, showers,toilets,?? trashcans. Campsites along the pathway. A little Store. Outdoor cooking areas. Medical visits etc..</p>
	7/9/2019	Oconomowoc, WI	<p>My husband & I (along with 3 other couples from CO, IL, & IN) have planned a 6-day trip to Austin this fall. As the plans are coming together we look to find activities in the area to fill our days and learn about the city. It has now come to our attention that the Mayor of Austin (with their city council) has decided it would be "ok" to allow the homeless to camp in public areas. I cannot begin to tell you how disappointing this news is; we never envisioned we would encounter homeless camping when we selected this city to meet in. I heard on the news that you are considering an override of this law. You most certainly should do so.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Sincerely, Patti Wilson</p>
Mrs. Eva E Wisser	8/20/2019	Austin	<p>I was informed that the Governor had the authority to overturn Austin's recent law allowing Public Camping. To allow Austin to become another San Francisco with hordes of homeless populations, is an affront to all Texans. I request that any action possible be taken to reign in Austin City Council.</p>

Mrs. Eva E Wisser	10/3/2019	Austin	I want to thank the Governor for taking action on Austin's homeless crisis. Texas' capitol must not be degraded by the extremists on the Austin City Council. Single member districts make it impossible to hold the council accountable. Only a handful of voters in these districts are managing to ruin the quality of life for all Austinites and also Texans. I strongly support any action and any future bill that will stop the invasion of homelessness.
Mrs. Cathy Wodarski	8/20/2019	Austin	Dear Gov. Abbott, I am so very concerned about the recent mandate regarding the homeless being allowed to "Camp" wherever they choose in our city. I have seen first hand, (I live in the Great Hills area of Austin), appalling streets and under bridges filled with, trash, increased begging on the street corners, shopping carts, tents etc. Please help us restore our lovely city by reversing the ban that our city council and mayor have put into effect. Cathy Wodarski
Mr. John H Wofford	10/3/2019	Austin	Normally I'm not in favor of state governments getting into city issues or the feds getting into state issues, but I fully support governor Abbott's foray into Austin's ludicrous encouragement of homelessness. I live a block east of I 35 between 10th and 11th and I have seen the deterioration of our city up close. At almost every street corner I'm confronted with beggars, who, since the recent change in the city ordinance, now aren't prohibited from engaging people in cars. I cannot get a burger at Wendy's without a homeless person popping out from behind the speaker order station or hiding around the corner at the delivery station to try to confront me before I can raise my window. When I threaten the Wendy's people with loss of business, they say they are powerless and that the police say they can do nothing. Since the change in the ordinances I have noticed more and more out of state homeless flocking here. Austin has become an experiment for the "woke" folk. Please do what you can to help us avoid becoming San Francisco,
Mrs. Liz Woodall	8/21/2019	Austin	Please help keep Austin safe. We are worried about the transient populations camping on our streets and the effect it has on our businesses and working citizens. The mayor is not handling this matter intelligently. He says he went to Los Angeles to see how they deal with the homeless and got some good ideas. Los Angeles is not a good example as they are losing businesses and there is human excrement in their streets Which will cause disease. I hope you can help Austin stay the great place it is to live . We don't need a mayor that has no idea and isn't going to the right source for a solution.
Ms. Olivia Wood	10/3/2019	Austin	Sir, I am so glad u r stepping up in regards to homeless people.. I don't understand the mayor of Austin.. spending money to go to California to get resources on how to handle the issue. We have our answers 1-hr. Away... San Antonio is a prime example u need to move them away from the central area of Austin not only central, east of 35, south and north. Remove them from camping in our bridges, parks and definitely our sidewalks. It is sooooo gross feces, trash, odor of urine and tents everywhere. We r the capital of Texas, Austin weird, live music and soon to be soccer association... it is so embarrassing for Out of town people to come to Austin to see this. It is going to push everyone out. The solution is just like San Antonio to A band them out of Austin. If u want to help Austin move them way out where they can't be seen... built them facilities like San Antonio has.. we have land out in the boom dock where they can't be seen it's so disgusting... also u r housing, feeding and providing them with all these resources with our tax money. But again us retired city of Austin employees have had no raises in over 20 or more years and everything keeps going up we can barely pay our bills and don't qualify for no assistance.. that's so wrong.. but hear u r doing for the homeless... please clean up Austin move them out it's so embarrassing, disgusting... please help us retirees we need a raise economy keeps going up and up... we r in one monthly income..., Thank u, Please take care as soon as possible this dirty homeless camps all they r doing is wasting taxpayers money and hiring others to clean up there mess... Sent from my iPhone
Mr. Don G Woody Mr. Casey Worthey	10/3/2019 7/16/2019	Lakeway Austin	Thanks for weighing in on the homeless problem in Austin. The Mayor and City Council have made some dumb decisions Please help with this Austin camping ordinance. This is killing Austin and turning it into San Francisco, LA, or Seattle. I live in downtown and its dying. Texas needs your help. Thanks Casey

Mr. Marc Wylie	8/13/2019	San Antonio	<p>Governor Abbott, I saw an article in the Austin Statesman where you address issues related to the homeless in Austin, which are happening now in San Antonio which i have put forth to our city leaders here in this letter.... I write to you as a concerned citizen in the hopes you can help resolve some of the issues occurring in and around the Hays Street Bridge just steps away from downtown, the river walk and our thriving tourist industry. I live adjacent to the bridge and have been a witness to the ever growing problems of trash, discarded clothing and human waste that continues to pile up around the Hays Street Bridge area. On Saturday morning I came across an orange bucket used for defecating just feet outside my front gate against the wall of the bridge. There is used toilet paper all around the bucket which sits just feet away from the storm drain at Hays and Cherry Street. Is this what we want going into our water supply, human feces? I walk my dogs every morning over the Bridge and everyday there are people sleeping, loose trash, old food left behind, and discarded clothing.</p> <p>My question to you is who is responsible for the accumulating trash, waste and discarded items along the city streets in this area? I spent much of my weekend trying to get the bucket of human feces removed. I called 311 multiple times and was told they don't take calls regarding this issue and was referred to non-emergency police, they informed me they do not act on this either and was referred back to 311. So no one in the city is taking responsibility?</p> <p>In this area, there are several charities providing food, clothing and other items every day and that's a great thing but where does the burden of responsibility lie for these wonderful gestures? The food, trash, clothing and various other items are simply discarded once used, deposited all around our streets and Historic Bridge. Who should be accountable for the mounting trash and waste? Is there a solution to this growing problem?</p> <p>To date no one has responded to me regarding these issues. Please advise where I should turn for answers and action with special attention to how I can get the orange bucket of human feces removed.</p>
Mr. David Young	7/29/2019	Richmond	<p>Governor Abbot. I first want you to know I appreciate all you are doing for Texas! I however want to know what is being done in regards to the homeless being allowed to camp on Austin Streets. Austin used to be such a beautiful place along with the rest of the Hill country area. It is now overly crowded and all the free space taken up. Add to that homeless camping all over I think is disgusting. I have lost my desire to even visit the area after living there for 5 years. While I did not witness the homeless issue first hand I had a friend return from a trip to Austin and he declared it "DISGUSTING" he started that homeless camps were lining the streets all over. The reason I am writing this today is because of your recent Promise to Ban Cities specifically Austin from Authorizing Homeless camping on Texas City Streets such as those that have occurred in California. I have even seen similar areas around some of the Houston Suburbs such as tents set up under bridges in Pearland. Please Sir enact the Ban you promised immediately. Do not allow our cities turn into a California nightmare!</p>
Mrs. Tiffany Young	7/8/2019	Dripping Springs	<p>PLEASE HELP AUSTIN!!!</p> <p>Dear Governor Abbott,</p> <p>We are desperate in Austin to get this new homeless law overturned. I have lived here with my family for almost 25 years. We love this city, but have watched the outsiders from liberal states move in and take over. They and their far left views are NOT representative of the majority of people who live in and around this town. The City Council members are imposing laws that have been proven to fail in other states. There are soooo many reasons why this law allowing "homeless" to live in tents or just lay in the streets is harmful to our city. Firstly, this isn't a homeless issue, it's a drug and alcohol addiction problem. Most of the true homeless (those evicted or lost jobs) are not the ones sleeping in tents, panhandling, or lying on the sidewalks. The people who are setting up permanent residency on the streets are suffering from addictions and/or mental illness. We all know that no matter how much money or low cost housing is provided, it won't change the habit of the street addict. They do need help, but it is not by enabling them. By allowing them to take over our town, we are essentially turning our backs on them and in the process our city deteriorates. It will become filled with trash, feces, and dirty needles. It will be overrun with delusional and aggressive street dwellers. It will become unsafe and unsightly for anyone to go downtown. It will cause Austin's economy to stall and go the other direction. Visitors who come for all the music, tech, and film festivals will soon tire of the filth. Theft, assault, and rapes will continue to increase. Businesses are already looking for new cities to host conventions and the beauty that appeals to us all will be unrecognizable.</p> <p>PLEASE!! Don't let us become Seattle, San Fran, LA, or Portland. WE ARE TEXANS and we need your help!! Please call a special session, two years will be too long. Please take the time to watch this unbelievable documentary about the plight of Seattle as it is exactly what will happen to Austin. It is called Seattle Is Dying and it is unconscionable what has happened there so quickly. https://youtu.be/bpAi70WWBhw Also, please take the time to research what Rhode Island is doing with their CODAC Program providing MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) to its homeless/criminals living on the streets. This program has seen a 93% success rate! We love our country. We love our state. We love our city. We love our citizens, even those that are too sick to help themselves. Please, Governor Abbott help save Austin before it's too late.</p> <p>Loyal supporter, Tiffany Young</p>

Mr. Tommie D Young	10/3/2019	Kilgore	<p>The homeless.</p> <p>I would like talk to you about help with give the homeless a place to live. I can supply the family's with a place to live get off the streets. Get them a place to live get a job with fresh start.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Tommie young</p>
Mrs. Susan C Zbranek Lumbley	7/10/2019	Austin	<p>reversal of no sit no lie ordinance has turned Austin into a dumpster and homeless people are being MUCH more aggressive at our windows at lights - this IS NOT the solution for what was a few weeks ago, a beautiful city. People tweaked out on drugs are lying on sidewalks and just leaving trash EVERYWHERE. Help Austin help itself, these council members did not do right by its people.</p>
Ms. Kay F Zercher Kay Zercher	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Dear Governer Abbott,</p> <p>I am writing to request that you stay out of Austin's governance. Your latest statement of intent in taking care of Austin's homeless is overstepping your boundaries and is based on spurious arguments. If you really and truly care about the homeless problem, you will help the homeless themselves and offer the city of Austin financial support to make the changes necessary. Then the needles and feces you want to protect us from will no longer be an issue. And your approach to solving this crisis will not improve the problem of homelessness but simply hide it. Therefore I feel your desire is not truly to help with homelessness itself. So please, stay out of Austin.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kay Zercher</p>
Mr. Terry M Zettle	10/3/2019	Coppell	<p>I want to thank the Governor for holding the City of Austin and its leadership accountable for the ongoing homeless crisis that they, in part, created! My wife and I have personally witnessed the homeless situation worsen over the last four years as our daughter attends the University of Texas. As the Governor may recall there was a young woman murdered on campus by a 17 year old homeless man that said he came to Austin because of services provided to the homeless. Since that time my wife and I have been to Austin around 40 times to watch our daughter as she was a member of the UT pom squad. In those visits we have been accosted by the homeless for money and food, seen them urinating out in the open, witnessed fights, and had them approach our vehicle on almost every intersection along SH 35 within the Austin city limits. Just last month we were moving our daughter into her newest residence so she can complete graduate school and when we exited the building the first thing we see are 2 homeless people clad only in shorts using the city trash can as a drum set and begging for money. You could tell people were uncomfortable and were attempting to give them a wide berth. As I enter my 40th year in law enforcement I'm appalled at the hands off approach of the City of Austin and its police department in dealing with obvious criminal violations being committed by the homeless population. I've sent emails in the past to my State representative asking for a solution to the homeless crisis in west campus. In my many years of law enforcement and dealing with the homeless population I've found that the vast majority of them suffer from some form of mental illness. As a concerned father and citizen I can't understand how the City of Austin and its police department don't recognize that the mixture of naïve young college students and mentally ill homeless people is a dangerous combination and needs to be addressed. Unfortunately my emails were never answered. In conclusion my family enjoys all Austin has to offer but this situation has become intolerable! Its about time someone addressed this issue but it should've been the Austin Mayor and City council.</p>
Ms. Marla A ZNeusel	10/3/2019	Austin	<p>Thank you immensely for your mandate and deadline issued to Mayor Adler of Austin to do something about the homeless population in Austin! I guarantee you that we residents are fed up with the situation and Mayor Adler doesn't have the fortitude to really handle the situation. Thank you for caring about the city of Austin. I don't know of one person who doesn't have empathy for someone down in their luck, but there seems to be too many people not willing to seek available help to improve their lives but who choose to make street living and all it encompasses the norm. We are fed up with the filth , drugs and arrogance that they spread all over our city. There has to be a better solution. Can enforceable laws be put in place banning encampment and loitering in public places? Again, thank you— we are the majority.</p>

Ms. LAUREL E ZOLLARS	7/15/2019	GEORGETO WN	<p>I was very unhappy to find out that Austin is going to allow the homeless to sleep anywhere they want. Los Angeles, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Seattle have drug addicted people sleeping on the streets and urinating and defecating on them. When that happens to Austin it will drive away tourism and the convention business. Crime will go up in Austin.</p> <p>I just went down to Austin from Georgetown to the lamp shop in Austin to get my new lamp shade and repaired lamps destroyed in my move. I get a very nice shade for less and he takes my old ruined shade and rehabs it to give to charity rather than going into a landfill from my trash. He's old. This is going to destroy business in his shop. They will steal from him and it will drive customers away. He'll retire and close the shop down and that will be one more family business going under just like so many family businesses go under now in America. Just like the middle class is going down in America. When less than 5% of the country is rich and the middle class and the poor are both poor, America is going down.</p> <p>I know that are a lot of people here from California bringing their high property taxes to Austin and their liberal Democratic ways. We did not elect you to turn Texas into California and we didn't elect you to turn Austin into Los Angles, San Francisco and San Diego. We want law and order in Texas. That is why we live here and not in California.</p> <p>These new laws need to be overturned because they are not good for Austin. They will hurt this city financially and you will see sanitation issues and health issues return that were eradicated for a very good reason in the United States I grew up in.</p>
Ms. LAUREL E ZOLLARS	7/15/2019	GEORGETO WN	<p>This decriminalizing the homeless is a plan that the cabal are putting into place to take down America. I think you should pass some kind of law to prevent this in Texas so it doesn't happen in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio and El Paso. And if they oppose it, get Texas state militia and Rangers to enforce it if local police can't.</p>
Ms. LAUREL E ZOLLARS	7/15/2019	GEORGETO WN	<p>There ought to be some civil plan to provide housing for the homeless. If they are on drugs and could work then there ought to be a drug rehab program and some back to work training to get these people in a position to work. Also since the mental hospitals have been shut down there needs to be someway of restarting some of them. Some of these people will never be able to work and will need permanent care.</p>